

# THE TIMES

Christopher Ward:  
The 12 days of  
Christmas, page 6

## Steel strike called for January 2 over 2 pc offer

A national steel strike for January 2 was called last night after steel workers said they were pushed "to the brink" by a 2 per cent wage offer. The British Steel Corporation said the strike would be "a tragedy".

### First all-out action since 1926

By Paul Routledge

**Labour Editor**  
An official national steel strike executive team January 2 was called last night by one of the largest union in the industry, the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation.

The shutdown, over a 2 per cent wage offer by the British Steel Corporation, will seriously disrupt industry unless a settlement is reached in the interim.

The 21-member executive of the confederation called the first all-out steel strike since the 1926 general strike after hearing from the steel-making areas that workers in the industry are ready to take industrial action. The union last night sent out circulars telling them of the stoppage.

Mr William Sirs, the union's general secretary, said: "The steel workers feel they have been pushed to the absolute brink by the corporation. BBC has excelled our sacrifices over the years of restructuring and closing down of plants. But the men feel now that regardless of what we do, there is no security in the industry unless we can show some reserve."

We firmly believe that our co-operation has been seen to be a sign of weakness, and while we recognize that the corporation is not making overall profits in producing and selling profitably among plants,

British Steel, which last week reported a half-year loss of £145m, also wants £5,000 more to go to it in the industry, and ITC leaders last night rejected the new closure programme.

They are ready to offer a shorter working week, a reduced pay if the available orders are shared out, but argue the BSC is attacking the core of the industry. In South Wales, Scunthorpe and County Durham.

Mr Sirs said the ITC will seek support for its strike from other unions in the industry, and from the International Metalworkers Federation. "We will put pickets wherever they are necessary, regardless of Mr Prior. We will also ask for full support from the dockers and the miners."

The call for support from elsewhere in the industry will be discussed at a meeting of

the TUC steel industry committee next Thursday, but even without the support of others, the ITC is big enough to stop the industry on its own.

By calling out all its 90,000 members in state steel, from labourers to middle managers, the union can effectively cut off supplies of crucial raw materials to the car industry, shipbuilding, engineering and civil engineering construction sites.

Many other supplier and consumer industries dependent on steel, including the railways, would also suffer.

The union's members are also being told not to undertake additional work normally carried out by BSC.

The circular that went out to branches last night explained the strike as follows: "This course of action is the only method of bringing to the attention of the employers and the nation as a whole the perilous situation existing within the corporation, and to emphasize the bitterness and frustration of our membership in seeing their industry ruined by incompetent policies pursued by the BSC board, together with a continued lowering of the members' standard of living."

Branch officials have been told they will be given further instructions without delay in the meantime they are to notify all members of the executive division.

The union's original claim was for more than 20 per cent pay rise the corporation has offered a 2 per cent across the board to all workers in the industry.

BSC has also said that local productivity bargaining can take place and where proven increase in performance justifies it, there could be up to 10 per cent more payable as a lump-sum quarterly in arrears.

This was dismissed last night by the union as "pie in the sky".

Sir Charles Villiers, chairman of BSC, said after the announcement: "I think this is a tragedy. The only winners are overseas steelmakers. We are desperate for orders and indeed we lack prospects. What we must do is satisfy our customers because without customers there is no business."

The call for support from elsewhere in the industry will be discussed at a meeting of

## TUC leader denounces proposals as 'unfair' and predicts strikes to regain rights

## Employment Bill aims to limit 'extreme behaviour' on picket lines

By Paul Routledge  
Labour Editor

The Government unveiled its proposals yesterday to reform trade union law against a background of welcome from employers and opposition from union leaders.

Introducing the Employment Bill, Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment, said the aim was to bring some common sense into industrial relations and to help prevent "extreme behaviour" which goes beyond all reason, including a repetition of those picketing excesses that so distressed the nation last winter.

Its main provisions are to encourage the wider use of

secret ballots in union affairs; to limit lawful picketing to a picket's own place of work; to provide greater protection for employees affected by closed shop; to establish codes of practice on the closed shop and picketing; to provide protection against "coercive" trade union recruitment; and to encourage employers to create new jobs.

But the Department of Employment is still reviewing trade union immunities, and further narrowing of trade unionists' rights to take action with impunity under the civil law may be introduced.

Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, denounced the Bill as "irrelevant and grossly unfair" and predicted that unions would seek to regain

through collective bargaining, and by "perfectly proper" strikes if necessary, the employment rights that the legislation will remove.

He went on: "I am absolutely convinced that this legislation, if it becomes an Act, will have to be removed by Parliament itself; and I would guess that the reasons for that will be the reaction, resentment and pressure of employers as much as unions. I have nothing to do with it, we shall be asking the Labour Party to give us an absolute assurance of repeal."

The TUC's employment policy meets next Thursday to examine the Bill in detail and decide on further action.

The Confederation of British

Industries gave a general welcome to the Bill which the employer feel hits the right targets. Sir John Methven, director-general of the CBI, said that subject to minor reservations, it seemed an important step in tackling abuses of the law which had been damaging to business and industry. It should help to improve the hopes for economic recovery.

The Bill provides for state funds for secret ballots held by unions on elections to office, the calling and ending of strikes or other industrial action, and amending union rules and amalgamations.

That part of the Bill is likely to prove the least contentious. The electricians' union has already said it will accept pub-

lic funding for the ballots it already holds, and the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers is likely to follow suit. The Government expects that the postal ballot scheme will cost around £1m a year when fully established; £1m in the first year.

Much more controversial is the Government's intention to give workers employed or seeking employment where there is a closed shop the right not to be unreasonably excluded or expelled from a trade union. That will be buttressed by further amendments to the law introduced by the Labour Govern-

ment.

The law relating to unfair dismissals will also be amended to shift the burden of proving

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## Mr Haughey hints at withdrawal call to UK

From Christopher Thomas Dublin

Mr Charles Haughey, the Irish Republic's new Prime Minister, hinted strongly last night that he proposed to return his party to its 1975 policy statement of seeking a British declaration of withdrawal from Ulster.

The declaration was substantially watered down by Mr Lynch, the outgoing Taoiseach, but still officially stands as a central Plassey Fall objective.

However, Mr Haughey couched his controversial remarks with a forthright condemnation of violence and terrorism.

"I condemn the provisional IRA and all its activities", he said.

His party supporters, who were crowded behind him at a press conference in Leinster House, cheered and clapped loudly at this first outright attack on the IRA heard from Mr Haughey for some years.

The reputation of the new Prime Minister is that of a hard liner, but he appeared to be trying to present himself as a more conciliatory figure yesterday. He would be happy to talk to Mrs Thatcher, the Rev Ian Paisley, and the Official Unionists, he said. Peace was a goal, he made it clear, that he held dear.

His policy on the North would not vary from present Plassey Fall policy, but Mr Haughey repeatedly pointed out that there might be some changes of emphasis.

He would not be drawn on the details, but promptly rejected the Government's working paper on power devolution to Northern Ireland, as "inadequate" from the point of view of the Roman Catholic minority.

The man who only nine years ago was acclaimed by an Irish jury concerning an alleged gun running scandal, was elected by the Plassey Fall parliamentary party by 44 votes to 38. His only rival was Mr George Colley, Minister for Finance, who politically is very much in the stamp of Mr Lynch.

His outright rejection of the Provisional IRA is undoubtedly his most unequivocal statement on terrorism since the arms trial.

News of Mr Haughey's election came just over an hour after the 82 members of the



Mr Charles Haughey after his election yesterday as the Irish Republic's new Prime Minister.

parliamentary party assembled, and it appears that he is in the extraordinary position of capturing the votes of no more than two members of the present Cabinet.

He will be spending the weekend considering what Cabinet changes to make when he is officially installed as Prime Minister on Tuesday, but he indicated that at this stage he might present no more than a minor reshuffle.

He may at some stage, however, choose to settle some old scores from the days of the 1970 scandal.

On Ulster, he was specific: "We want to bring about unity and an end to violence and towards this end we would like a British commitment to disengage from Northern Ireland, from this country".

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## Tories to increase pay beds in hospitals

By John Roper

**Health Services Correspondent**  
The provision of private medical care will become easier and the raising of voluntary funds to help the National Health Service will be encouraged under the National Health Services Bill, introduced yesterday.

It implements the Tory pledge to see that pay beds are available in hospitals, where there is a demand for them, and abolishes the Health Services Board, which was given the task of phasing out pay beds and restricting private practice by the last government.

The Bill gives power to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Security to simplify the structure of the NHS. Area health authorities are likely to give way to one or more single district health authorities but the final form will await discussions on a consultative document to be published next Tuesday.

The control of private hospital developments will be transferred from the Health Services Board to the Secretary of State, and changed.

The present limit on the number of beds in a private hospital may provide 100 in Greater London and 75 elsewhere will be raised to 120. There will be exemption from authorization for increases in the number of beds in private hospitals where the increase is less than 20 per cent in a three-year period.

He said: "I believe strongly that our army and our police are capable of dealing with security matters in the republic". That, too, his supporters cheered loudly.

Unions apprehensive: Immediate reaction among Unions in Northern Ireland to Mr Haughey's appointment was one of some apprehension that there was a sharper edge to Dublin's thrust for Irish unity.

Mr James Prior, Official Unionist leader, said that remembering Mr Haughey's history every unionist must be on his guard. The Rev Ian Paisley, Minister for Finance, who politically is very much in the stamp of Mr Lynch.

Under the Bill health authorities will no longer be prevented from directly promoting fund-raising appeals. They will be able to make grants to local authorities for personal social

Further evidence of the divi-

## Mr Vance seeks allies in Bonn and London over Iran money war

By Peter Norman

**Caroline Atkinson**  
Mr Cyrus Vance, the United States Secretary of State, arrives in London on Monday for meetings with the Foreign Secretary, Lord Carrington, and Mrs Margaret Thatcher, when he is likely to step up pressure on Britain to back Washington's economic war against Iran.

Further meetings have been arranged next week, beginning on Monday, to discuss this and other syndicated loans made by Chase, European and Japanese banks believed to have been declared in default on these.

Bank Mellini of Iran announced yesterday that it had filed a writ in London against First National Bank of Chicago for the repayment of £511,750. This is the latest in the series of writs challenging the legality of the Americans' moves.

In Bonn it is argued that there is no legal basis for the American action.

The Germans also see the attachment of Iran's assets in Krupp and Babcock as using a sledgehammer to crack a nut. The attachments against Krupp are in connexion with alleged defaults totalling \$66m (about £30m) and compare with the Morgan Guaranty Trust Company against Krupp.

It is strongest in that the Americans behaved precipitately in including the foreign branches of their banks in the assets freezing order and by attaching the Iranians' West German industrial assets.

Although officials in London are unwilling to comment on either the freezing or the many legal writs now flying over Iran's assets in American banks in Britain, it is clear that they are extremely unwilling to be drawn any further in the American war.

It is likely that concern in official British circles influenced the decision of the American Chemical Bank to modify its injunction against Iran on Thursday.

This bad frozen all of Iran's assets in London, including its \$50,000m (£25,000m) loan, declared in default.

The modification means that much less money is frozen: \$510m of a National Water Council loan to the Government of Iran, and \$510m of bank deposits by the central bank of Iran.

Although there are sound reasons of self-interest for such a step, the move may be presented to Mr Vance as a token of solidarity.

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## HOME NEWS

## Ministry circular on toughening attitude towards NHS strikers and pickets draws unions' anger

By John Roper  
Health Services Correspondent  
The Department of Health sent a circular to hospital authorities yesterday giving them guidance on tightening their attitudes in dealing with industrial disputes in the National Health Service. There was strong reaction by the trade unions last night.

Mr Albert Spanswick, general secretary of the Confederation of Health Service Employees, who is regarded as a "moderate", angrily demanded that Mr Patrick Jenkins, Secretary of State for Social Security, withdraw the circular. The document, he said, was designed to incite confrontation. By recklessly issuing the circular without consultation Mr Jenkins was abusing the channels for negotiation and agreement.

"By threatening staff in disputes where unions themselves have ruled out action in the clinical area, he will undermine responsible trade unionism and sap still further the morale of staff," Mr Spanswick said.

The General Whitley Council was in the process of reaching agreement (after a seven-day discussion) on local disputes procedure, but the circular put that in doubt.

Mr Jenkins' "cavalier invitation" to suspend staff without pay was a deliberate act which would endanger patients, all for no useful purpose at a time when a national agreement on disputes was near, Mr Spanswick said.

The circular says that strikers should not be paid. Nor should they receive bonus or overtime payments which had not been earned. Now were staff who took strike action entitled to sickness benefit.

## Health service plans 'reactionary'

Continued from page 1

services projects and to voluntary organizations. A new provision defines the financial obligations of health authorities and, perhaps with the London authority which Mr Patrick Jenkins, the Secretary of State for Health and Social Security, sacked for refusing to keep within their cash limits, defines an authority's duty to see that expenditure does not exceed income.

It is estimated that the abolition of the Health Services Board will save about £167,000. There will be increased revenue from private patients.

Help for family doctors to acquire or improve surgery premises is given by a provision which increases the borrowing powers of the General Practice Finance Corporation, which makes loans to general practitioners. The corporation is given a new power enabling it to lease premises to doctors. The British Medical Association

said the Bill would restore an important element of flexibility for doctors treating patients within the NHS.

Mr David Bolt, chairman of the association's senior hospital doctors' committee, said that the Bill contained common sense measures. It would ensure that consultants could provide a more comprehensive service within one hospital.

With the phasing out of pay beds there had been growing concern at the waste of consultants' time in travelling between NHS and private hospitals.

Our Political Correspondent writes: Labour MPs saw the Bill as a reactionary measure which would force nurses into the position they were in before the National Health Service Act was passed in 1946, having to go on the streets with collecting boxes on "flag days".

Mr Stanley Orme, Labour MP for Salford, West, who was Minister for Social Security in the last Labour government, in this Bill.

## Babies' death rate falling dramatically, minister says

By Annabel Ferriman

The death rate among babies at birth and in the first week of life had been falling more rapidly since 1975 than at any other time in the past 50 years, Dr Gerard Vaughan, Minister of State for Health, said in London yesterday.

He told a conference on perinatal mortality and morbidity that the rate had also fallen dramatically over the past nine years, from 23.5 a thousand in 1970 to 14.5 in the first three-quarters of this year.

Britain had not made such rapid progress as some other developed countries, but it was "catching up some of the lost ground".

The infant mortality rate (deaths during the first year) had also fallen, from 13.3 a thousand in the first three-quarters of 1978 to 12.1 for the same period this year.

Mr Geoffrey Chamberlain, a consultant obstetrician and a member of the children's committee set up by the Government to advise on children's health matters, told the conference that there was still wide variation in perinatal mortality between different social groups.

In social class one the rate was a thousand was 7.5; in social class five it was 27.6 and among unsupported mothers it was 37.4.

A new report on screening during pregnancy for neural tube defects in foetuses, namely anencephaly and open spinal bifida, was announced by Dr Vaughan.

It does not recommend that a screening service should be made generally available for all pregnant women because of the cost and because of the 2 per

cent risk of miscarriage which accompanies amniocentesis, the test used to discover defects.

It recommends that patients should be encouraged to attend for antenatal care at the earliest possible time to enable a blood sample to be taken at the optimum time of 16-18 weeks of pregnancy.

The blood is tested for alpha-fetoprotein (AFP), an abnormally high level of which can indicate foetal abnormalities.

Where levels are found to be high it recommends that ultrasound techniques are used to check gestational age, to detect multiple pregnancies and as a preliminary to amniocentesis.

It suggests a national quality control scheme for laboratory testing of AFP levels and national monitoring of the effects of the screening process.

It emphasizes above all the necessity of counselling pregnant women adequately about the screening process, about the significance of the tests and about whether they want an abortion. The patients must realize that the tests are voluntary, the report says.

Professor Sir Douglas Black, president of the Royal College of Physicians and chairman of the working party which produced the report, said yesterday: "Our general recommendation is that we are in favour of screening, with two provisos: the services must be really adequate and there must be full availability of counselling."

The report, screening for neural tube defects is available free of charge from: The Secretary to the working party, DHSS, Alexander Fleming House, Elephant and Castle, London, SE1.

Magistrates at Newark-on-Trent, Nottinghamshire, have given permission for a floating public house on the Trent. A licence was granted for a former grain barge dating from 1925.

If these reports are true it

is old barge

they are the heads of the departments that are involved in the "pull out" strategy, according to the Tory back-benchers.

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## EMPLOYMENT BILL

# Improvements in industrial relations sought

By Our Labour Staff

The Employment Bill, published yesterday, implements the Government's commitment to restore the balance in industrial relations. Introducing the proposed legislation, Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment, said: "The Bill does not create any miracle cure for the chronic ailments that plague the nation's economic performance."

"But it will create a better opportunity for management and unions to get on with making the improvements in industrial relations that the nation so urgently needs."

The main purposes of the Bill are:

To encourage the wider use of secret ballots in trade union affairs.

To provide greater protection for employees affected by the closed shop.

To limit lawful picketing to a picket's own place of work.

To enable the Government to establish codes of practice on the closed shop and picketing.

To provide protection against "coercive" trade union recruitment.

To amend employment protection law to encourage employers to create new jobs.

Mr Prior said at a press conference: "I believe the proposals in the Bill will help management to get on with the job of managing and give trade unions the chance to restore the public's confidence and their members' faith in them. I hope that both will respond."

"Since publishing our working paper, we have had the considered views of many people and organizations. The Government has been greatly helped in drafting the legislation by these comments and hopes that similarly reasoned responses will be made to the Bill."

"No doubt some will say that we have gone too far; others will say not far enough. But I believe the majority of people will see this Bill as a means of creating a better industrial climate and that our approach is fair-minded."

The contents of the Bill are summarized below.

## Ballots and codes of practice

Clause 1 of the Bill would empower the Secretary of State to make by regulations a scheme administered by the certification officer providing for payments towards the cost of secret ballots.

Qualifying unions would have to be those certified as independent under the terms of the Trade Union and Labour Relations Act 1974.

The balloting that could be subsidized would include those for calling or ending a strike or other industrial action, elections to the executive or other governing body of a union, elections of full-time officials, changes in union rules and amalgamations of unions or transfer of engagements under the Trade Union (Amalgamations) Act, 1964, or other purposes which the Secretary of State could specify by order.

Clause II would enable the Secretary of State to issue codes of practice containing practical

guidance for promoting the improvement of industrial relations. A failure by any person to observe any provision of a code of practice so issued would not of itself render him liable to proceedings.

But in any proceedings before a court, an industrial tribunal, or the Central Arbitration Committee, any such code would be admissible in evidence and any provision of the code that appeared to the court, tribunal, or committee to be relevant would be taken into account.

Before issuing or revising a code, the Secretary of State would be required to consult with the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service, and publish a draft for consultation.

The codes would then be subject to approval by both Houses of Parliament.

## Unfair dismissal revision

Clause V would provide that in deciding whether an employer had carried out an unfair dismissal, an industrial tribunal should take into account the circumstances, including the size and administrative resources of the employer's undertaking.

The Bill would also remove from the employer in unfair dismissed cases the onus of demonstrating to the tribunal that he acted reasonably in treating the reason for dismissal as justifying dismissal. It would be for the tribunal to decide whether the employer acted reasonably in all the circumstances "in accordance with equity and the substantial merits of the case".

Clause VII of the Bill would exempt new firms with fewer than 20 employees from the unfair dismissal provisions for the first two years after they took on their first employee. During that period, employees would accumulate service towards the qualifying period for making a complaint of unfair dismissal, but they would be able to exercise their right to claim unfair dismissal only after the two years expired.

The exemption would cease if at any time the firm recruited more than 19 employees. Employers would be able to claim exemption only if they told their employees in writing, before offering the exemption and date on which it expired. The exemption would not cover cases of dismissal on account of trade union membership, or on certain medical grounds.

The Bill would reduce from two years to one the minimum length of a fixed-term contract in which employees may agree to waive their rights to complain of unfair dismissal if they are re-engaged on the expiry of the contract. The unfair dismissal provisions would still apply to dismissal during the period of the contract.

The Bill proposes several changes to the provisions on the basic award of compensation for unfair dismissal, and provides for the calculation of the basic unfair dismissal award on the same basis as redundancy payment.

It would empower tribunals to reduce the basic award in cases where the employee had

reduced his pay by accepting a reduction in pay.

It is expected that the maximum compensation would be limited to the same maximum applying in unfair dismissal cases. Where the EAT awarded compensation that would be taken to the higher maximum which applies in unfair dismissal cases where employers have not complied with a tribunal's reinstatement or re-engagement award, the maximum compensation would be limited to the same maximum applying in unfair dismissal cases.

In that case compensation would be what the EAT considered to be just and equitable and would be subject to a higher maximum award.

The complaint would be under the normal duty to mitigate loss arising from exclusion or expulsion from a trade union, and a tribunal would also be able to reduce the amount of compensation where a complainant's action contributed to his exclusion or expulsion.

Where a tribunal awarded compensation it would be limited to the same maximum applying in unfair dismissal cases. Where the EAT awarded compensation that would be taken to the higher maximum which applies in unfair dismissal cases where employers have not complied with a tribunal's reinstatement or re-engagement award, the maximum compensation would be limited to the same maximum applying in unfair dismissal cases.

The Bill provides a new definition of lawful picketing which lays down that it shall be law-

ful if reasonable refused an offer of reinstatement from the employer; or on grounds of the employee's conduct wider than the stated grounds for dismissal. The minimum entitlement to two weeks' pay would be abolished.

If in proceedings before an industrial tribunal the employer claimed that (a) he was induced to dismiss the employee by pressure which a trade union or other persons exerted on him by calling a strike or other industrial action, or (b) threatening to do so, and (b) that the pressure was exercised because the employee was not a member of any trade union or of a particular trade union, the employer would be able to require the person who had applied the pressure to be joined as a party to the proceedings.

Clauses 3 and 4 of the Bill deal with the closed shop. The Bill would give a person who is, or seeks to be, in employment where there is a union membership agreement ("closed shop") the right not to be unreasonably excluded, or expelled from a trade union.

This new right would be additional to present common law rights.

Complaints of infringement of the right would be heard by industrial tribunals, which would be required to consider the matter on its merits and not just on the particular union rules which apply.

Tribunals would have the power to declare complaints well founded and there would be a right of appeal, either on the facts or on points of law to the Employment Appeal Tribunal.

A person who had made a complaint against a trade union which had been declared by an industrial tribunal, or on appeal by the EAT, to be well-founded, may make an application for an award of compensation to be paid to him or her by the union.

Limits imposed on compensation

If at the time of the application the person had been admitted or readmitted to the union against which he made the complaint, the application would be to an industrial tribunal; and if not, to the EAT.

In that case compensation would be what the EAT considered to be just and equitable and would be subject to a higher maximum award.

The complaint would be under the normal duty to mitigate loss arising from exclusion or expulsion from a trade union, and a tribunal would also be able to reduce the amount of compensation where a complainant's action contributed to his exclusion or expulsion.

Where a tribunal awarded compensation it would be limited to the same maximum applying in unfair dismissal cases. Where the EAT awarded compensation that would be taken to the higher maximum which applies in unfair dismissal cases where employers have not complied with a tribunal's reinstatement or re-engagement award, the maximum compensation would be limited to the same maximum applying in unfair dismissal cases.

The Bill provides a new definition of lawful picketing which lays down that it shall be law-

ful for a person in contemplation or furtherance of a trade dispute to attend.

(a) at or near his own place of work;

(b) if he is an official of a trade union, at or near the place of work of a member of that union whom he is accompanying, for the purpose only of peacefully obtaining or communicating information, or of peacefully persuading any person to work or abstain from working.

If a person works, or normally works, otherwise than at any one place, or at a place where lawful picketing as it is now defined is impracticable, then his place of work is deemed to be "the premises of his employer from which he works or from which his work is administered". This definition is designed to cut out secondary picketing, for example lorry drivers picketing the docks.

The Bill goes on to include in lawful picketing unemployed persons picketing their former place of work in furtherance of a trade dispute connected with his dismissal, redundancy or resignation.

Miscellaneous provisions

Outside those legal boundaries a picket who induces a worker to break his contract of employment by picketing somewhere other than his own place of work could be sued in tort.

Turning to coercive trade union recruitment activities, the Bill lays down in clause 15 that a person could be liable in civil actions to the courts if he induced, or threatened to induce, another to break his contract of employment with the intention of compelling workers to join a particular trade union or organisation.

This would not apply where the employee whose contract of employment was broken (or threatened to be broken) worked for the same employer or at the same place as the workers who were being compelled to join a union.

The issue of press freedom appears in clause 16 of the Bill. This repeals section 1A of the Trade Union and Labour Relations Act 1974, under which the Secretary of State for Employment has a duty to draft a charter on freedom of the press or on the right to join a union.

The circumstances in which the section would not apply are where a small firm with fewer than six employees found it was not reasonably practicable to take her back in her old job or to offer alternative work; or where a firm found it was not reasonably practicable to offer her old job, but offered a suitable alternative which she accepted or unreasonably rejected.

The section 16 of the 1978 Act ("failure to permit women to return to work after confinement treated as dismissal") would not apply in certain circumstances. However, that would not affect any contractual rights the employee may have.

The weight of legislative business in the Commons is now so great, and the subject matter so contentious, that the Arts Minister has been unable to maintain all his responsibilities without assistance.

Mr Macfarlane, who is responsible for science, technology, research and international education, has been drafted in to help.

The same clause also repeals sections 11 to 16 of the Employment Protection Act, 1975, which established a statutory procedure for gaining recognition through the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service.

Clause 16 goes on to repeal Schedule 11 of the 1975 Act, and the remaining provisions of the Road Haulage Wages Act, 1938. The schedule to be repealed enables claims to be made that employers are not observing "recognised terms and conditions" or, in their absence, the "general level of terms and conditions observed in the same industry and district".

It also makes additional provision for workers in Wages Council industries. Claims are referred to Acas and, if not settled by conciliation, to the Central Arbitration Committee for bearing and award.

## No coercion to join a union

Clause 13 of the Bill would also extend to an employee who objected on grounds of conscience or other deeply held personal conviction to membership of any, or a particular, trade union, the right not to have action short of dismissal taken against him with the intention of forcing him to join a union.

The Bill provides a new definition of lawful picketing which lays down that it shall be law-

ful to make British industrial relations a "considerably more bloody battlefield".

The Managerial, Professional and Staff Liaison Group, a federation of independent unions representing 500,000 members, said that it had mixed views on the Bill and would be making representations to Mr Prior and MPs about some details not in line with its policies.

It was opposed to repeal of schedule 11 of the Employment Protection Act, 1975, and sections 13-16 of the Act which dealt with trade union recognition, and would be urging the Government to reconsider its decision.

The group was in favour of the proposals on the closed shop, as it believed that "individuals should have the right to belong or not belong to a trade union, and this should not affect their rights to work".

The introduction of postal ballots was welcomed on the assumption that they would be done on a voluntary basis, and the group said that it would be taking part in the consultations on the codes of practice in the hope that cooperation by all parties will result in good industrial relations.

It was a striker, out to improve his lot, not allowed to picket such firms?

Mr Evans said that on the closed shop Britain would now become "probably the only country in Europe where an 80 per cent ballot was needed."

Opinions were divided on the desirability of exempting small firms from certain aspects of the proposals, party dogma having triumphed over common sense and the real interests of the country.

We know that this Government is hostile to trade unions. That is not news, but this Bill reveals the Government's determination to prop up unscrupulous employers by often unorganized groups of small firms.

"So much for the concern of the Tories for the little man and woman" they are always talking about", Mr Murray said.

He said that the Bill had major implications for industrial relations and quoted as an example the possibility that workers who picketed the head office of their company could find themselves in the company court.

"There is enough tinder in the provisions on membership agreements (closed shops)

between employers and unions to enable a disruptive non-union employee to spark off a major row that neither the employer nor the union wants."

"This Bill could massively increase the numbers of problems of this sort—and at the same time undermine the TUC's machinery for dealing with them," Mr Murray said.

Mr Moscyn (Moss) Evans, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, said: "The practical application of law is the important thing, and the practical applications of legislation are going to cause problems with government and strained relations between unions and employers when we want to improve those relations".

He said that there could be trouble over the failure of the Bill to define the "place of work".

"How can one positively determine where a lorry driver's place of work is?" Mr Evans asked. In the cut-throat road haulage industry, non-organized firms could take over the work of a strike-affected firm.

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## HOME NEWS

# Key role will be given to police if industrial action is taken by prison officers over pay claim

By Peter Evans  
Home Affairs Correspondent

The police have been given a key role in contingency plans in case prison officers take industrial action. Possible use of the Army, although kept in mind, has not yet been mentioned officially.

The contingency plans drawn up during the past spring and summer within the Home Office have been discussed with the Association of Chief Police Officers. How far the police should be involved has been left to chief constables to decide locally.

The association is preparing to take official industrial action unless the Home Office agrees to pay claims which the May Committee of Inquiry into the prison service rejected.

The degree of assistance to be given has not been clearly specified but the police are prepared to help on the basis that they would be keeping the Queen's peace, rather than doing prison officers' work.

Some chief constables have, however, agreed to arrange meals for prisoners.

Contingency plans have been made for protracted meals to be provided by catering firms, though it is not clear whether caterers would be prepared to cross Prison Officers' Association picket lines.

In one respect the plans are based on principles that would govern the control of the Army during exercises in case of

terrorist attacks at London airports. The police officers would be in charge of law enforcement and the Army would act as their agents in coming to the aid of the civil power.

In prisons the governors would be in charge, liaising with the police, who would take orders from their own senior officers. The governor's relationship with the police has evolved from experience first gained last year during industrial action by police officers.

The plans began evolving with the arrival of Mr Dennis Trellyman as director-general of the Prison Service. The election of a Conservative government gave the proposals new impetus.

When the police retained custody of some remand prisoners last year, the arrangement was for an assistant governor to act as a liaison officer. That would continue to be the case if use of police cells was necessary.

The need for contingency plans was made clear in evidence to the May committee by the governors' branch of the Society of Civil and Public Services. The use of one form of limited industrial action, namely refusing admission to prisoners, would seriously threaten the maintenance of law and order. There are only about 5,000 places in police cells.

A sustained bout of notice & industrial action would therefore require the rapid opening

of an alternative prison system, probably within a week.

Another complication to be faced if prison staff are to be allowed to continue to take industrial action is the reaction of other groups affected. The position of staff taking industrial action but still able to discipline prisoners has an air of incongruity about it which we cannot expect prisoners or organisations concerned with prisoners' rights to tolerate indefinitely.

In some branches of the Prison Officers' Association the local leaders have already had difficulty in restraining some of the more militant members from taking action. The head office of the association is keen for each branch to send details of its plans for coordination by a special subcommittee.

Last year the danger to prison was brought home by a stark warning from governors to Mr Merlyn Rees, the former Home Secretary: "So far we have successfully avoided loss of life during serious disturbances but if the present trend continues there will be a serious loss of control which has to be quelled by armed intervention by another service". In such circumstances there is a probability of both staff and prisoners being killed. There are precedents in other prison systems.

There is also a precedent set by the firemen's dispute for the use of troops, though evidence suggests that governors would be firmly against soldiers bringing firearms into prisons.

## Photographer accused over bomb disposal picture

From Our Correspondent

Laura Mercer, a press photographer, who photographed Army bomb squad officers at work, appeared at Leeds Magistrates' Court yesterday charged with obstructing a policeman and acting in a manner calculated to blemish the peace. He pleaded not guilty and the hearing was adjourned until next Wednesday.

Mr Mercer, aged 52, of Meadow Close, Bardsey, Leeds, was said to have taken a photograph at the scene of a bomb scare in Leeds last June. Mr Richard Orley, for the prosecution, said that the Army bomb disposal team asked the police to stop press photographers taking photographs.

When he was approached by a police constable, Mr Mercer, who works for *The Yorkshire Post*, said: "I think I can take any pictures I like but if you do not want them published you can put a D Notice on them."

Sgt Arthur Tomkins told him the request was made because the Army men feared that

## Students told to unite in face of cuts

By Diana Gledhill  
Education Correspondent

Mr Trevor Phillips, president of the National Union of Students, yesterday appealed to Conservative students to join their fellow students in forming a united front in the campaign against the Government's spending cuts and its policies on overseas students and immigration.

Speaking at the opening of the union's annual conference in Blackpool, Mr Phillips said that students must not indulge in passive defiance or in a super-militant anti-Tory jamboree. They must plan their response on a serious, realistic and forward-looking basis.

"There are those of you who voted for Mrs Thatcher on May 3. Some of you are now regretting it. Whether you do or you don't, you must recognize the meaning of Mrs Thatcher's policies for students," Mr Phillips told more than 1,000 delegates who represent 1,200,000 students.

The union needed maximum unity and involvement to fight for the student interests which he believed Conservative students also held to be important.

Doubtless Glasgow politicians have been playing strongly in the gallery and, having no total responsibility, have reacted with trepidation to the Government's cuts.

It was that issue that forced the resignation of the minority Conservative administration which ruled the city until two months ago. Labour took over then, but resigned two weeks ago. Since then the council has drifted leaderless.

Yesterday Labour took over again, but with the 16 nationalists wavering between left and right to avoid the charge of being "Tories in trousers". The NUS for some years has a legitimate and sometimes influential strand of opinion. Now was not the time to abstain or "cop out".

**Deliberate fire causes death of second child**

From Our Correspondent

A second child has died as a result of the fire started deliberately at a house at Hull while his mother and her son slept. Peter Haste, aged eight, of Selby Street, Hull, died yesterday in the burns unit at Finsbury Fields Hospital, Wakefield.

His brother, Paul, aged 12, was critically ill in the same hospital. Another brother, Charles, aged 15, died in the hospital earlier in the week.

Mr Edith Haste, aged 34, and Tommy, aged nine, were poorly but comfortable in Hull Royal Infirmary.

Mrs Haste's husband, Thomas, aged 34, has been released from prison after serving four months of an 18-month sentence for burglary.

The Hastes also have three daughters, but they were away home sitting on the night of the fire.

Det Supt Ronald Sagar, who is in charge of the murder inquiry, said: "We know that some miserable wrenches crept up to the front door while the family slept, poured several pints of paraffin through the letter box and set it alight."

**Dart thrower banned**

Clifford Marriott, aged 17, the Nottingham Forest supporter who threw a dart at Pat Jennings, the Arsenal goalkeeper, was banned for life from the Forest ground.

**100 sheep die in crash**

About 100 sheep were killed by suffocation, when a lorry overturned in an accident yesterday on the M5 near Bristol.

**Chief Superintendent Alfred Horobin, aged 42, of the Derbyshire police, was awarded £4,000 libel damages in the High Court yesterday against *The Daily Telegraph*.**

He sued over an article which wrongly stated that while head of Derbyshire CID he had been in charge of the hunt in January, 1972, for William Hughes, a multiple murderer, the conduct of which led to questions in Parliament and the press.

The article linked the search for the injury to Mr Horobin's reputation and for his hurt feelings. He was satisfied that the article had not affected Mr Horobin's career.

It was unnecessary, he said, to deal with the question whether there was any malice in the article, but if it had been relevant he would have found that malice had not been established.

**In addition to the damages, *The Daily Telegraph* was ordered to pay legal costs estimated at £5,000.**

The judge said the bodies of four members of the Moran family, who had been held hostage by Mr Hughes, were found at Pottery Cottage, Eastmoor, Derbyshire. The crime raised a number of questions and there were also questions over the shooting of Mr Hughes.

Mr Horobin took charge only at the scene of the murder. By that time the hunt was over.

The judge said Mr Horobin had been involved in disagreements with the chief constable over the organization of the CID. He asked to be posted to divisional duties in November, 1976. There was no demotion in rank and the move was not connected with the Hughes search.

**The dinner for 130 guests at the award ceremony would have cost 30,000 kroner (£2,700), said to be enough to feed about 300 Indians for a year.—Agence France-Presse.**

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## OVERSEAS

**Zapu politicians work under disadvantage in Salisbury hustings**From Nicholas Ashford  
Salisbury, Dec 7

The problems of organizing an election campaign while the political party one represents is banned were illustrated today at a meeting between journalists and supporters of Mr Joshua Nkomo's wing of the Patriotic Front.

The meeting was called by Mr Munesi Nziramasanga, who described himself as the "former" deputy publicity secretary of the Zimbabwe African People's Union (Zapu).

Mr Nziramasanga, who was released from detention only a week ago, said he could not be described as the "acting" deputy publicity secretary because Zapu was still banned as an organization. Nor could today's meeting be described as a press conference because a banned organization cannot make public statements. Nor could anything be said be attributed to Zapu for the same reason.

The fact that Zapu and Mr Robert Mugabe's Zimbabwe African National Union (Zanu) are still proscribed organizations places them at a distinct disadvantage during the preliminary campaigning for next year's election.

While they remain silenced Bishop Abel Muzorewa's United African National Council (UANC), the largest party represented in the Government of National Unity, is having a field day.

The party's officials are going round the country holding meetings with supporters and getting the UANC's election machinery geared up for action, while Bishop Muzorewa and his ministers have been taking every opportunity to have their

views publicized in the press and on television.

The newspapers and the Zimbabwe Rhodesia Broadcasting Corporation seem quite happy to toe the Government line—and are anyway prevented by censorship from doing otherwise.

By contrast Zapu and Zanu have neither a newspaper nor any other recognized means of getting their message across to the people. They are not allowed to hold election meetings, although they have been arranging "briefing" sessions with supporters.

At the moment, both wings of the Patriotic Front operate from adjoining rooms in an old Sally-bury building held by the owners of housing—one a lawyer, the other a businessman. The fact that they are working out of the same premises is taken as a sign that at least the internal representatives of Zapu and Zanu want to contest the election jointly as the Patriotic Front.

However, Mr Nziramasanga, speaking as an individual and not of course as a party spokesman, was not prepared to be drawn on this point. "I cannot say at the moment whether it will be the PF which is contesting the election or Zapu-PF and Zanu-PF."

Mr Nziramasanga does suffer from other disadvantages in addition to being officially silenced. He said he did not really know how the election would be fought as this would be decided by the parties' leadership, and they were all in London. Having spent most of the past 14 years in detention he had to admit that he was a little out of touch with recent developments.

**Lord Soames to shun pomp as Governor**By George Clark  
Political Correspondent

Lord Soames has made it plain to the Muzorewa Government in Rhodesia that he wants no pomp or ceremony. He regards his mission as that of a practical politician determined to ensure the preservation of law and order, fair elections, the formation of a government and the advance to independence as soon as possible.

That does not mean that he fails to recognize the difficulties of his task. The fact that he is both a member of the Cabinet and a colonial governor is without precedent, but he regards the possibility of a conflict between him and Lord Carrington, the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, as the least of his worries.

In the House of Lords, his functions will be taken over by Lord Peverel, Deputy Leader of the House. At the Civil Service Department, where he was the minister in charge, the control of the day-to-day working of the

office will be taken over by Mr Paul Channon, MP for South and West, the Minister of State.

The Prime Minister continues to have overall responsibility for the Civil Service.

He will be accompanied by his wife, Mary, a daughter of Sir Winston Churchill, who has a reputation for excelling in arts of diplomacy.

Our Diplomatic Correspondent writes: The election commissioner, named yesterday, is to be Sir John Baynton, former chief executive of Cheshire county council. His deputy will be Mr J. A. Cumber, former Commissioner in Anguilla. The police adviser to the Governor will be Sir James Brightton, former Chief Constable of Merseyside.

At the Lancaster House the argument over assembly points for the Patriotic Front forces continued today, with Mr Mugabe and Mr Nkomo refusing to disclose the numbers of their forces, until they are satisfied about the location of the Rhodesian forces.

**Five executed by Mozambique firing squads**

Johannesburg, Dec 7

A 12-month-old baby was killed when Swapo guerrillas exchanged fire with South African security forces in a raid on a Nampula town.

The official statement gave no details of the time or place of their execution, which brings to 28 the number of people shot in Mozambique this year.

The military court also sentenced 12 other people to prison terms ranging from two to 30 years.—Agence France-Presse.

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**Population in Asia's giants: 1 China****Large families penalized in attempt to cut back births**

Nobody knows the size of China's population. Experts vary in their latest assessment between 974 million and 921 million—a discrepancy shown as large as the entire population of Britain. That was last year's assessment. By now, from whichever base, it will have grown another 15 million.

China's growth rate is now about 1.4 per cent per annum. The target is to force this down to 0.5 per cent by 2000, and zero population growth by 2020. By then the population will be about 1,200 million souls, with at least one-third under 15 years old.

To achieve this slow-down, the Party Congress in June considered a new policy devoted to the idea of the one-child family. Chairman Hu, in announcing this target, called for an insurance scheme for old people who are childless, since in China's virtually pensionless society there is a natural need for large families to provide for people's old age.

A law is being prepared to provide both for material and social incentives to couples who limit themselves to one child. There will also be severe penalties for couples who, having claimed the bonuses for a commitment to the single child, then have another one.

Family planning policy is not just a question of incentives or disincentives at the point of birth, however. It involves a wholly pervasive ideological commitment to the idea that birth planning is a social and not a private question; and that the size and spacing of families is a decision, not just for a couple, but for the community as a whole.

This policy starts to be applied administratively before

**Fifth arrest in roundup of Moscow rights group**From Michael Binyon  
Moscow, Dec 7

The newspaper and the Zimbabwe Rhodesia Broadcasting Corporation seem quite happy to toe the Government line—and are anyway prevented by censorship from doing otherwise.

By contrast Zapu and Zanu have neither a newspaper nor any other recognized means of getting their message across to the people. They are not allowed to hold election meetings, although they have been arranging "briefing" sessions with supporters.

At the moment, both wings of the Patriotic Front operate from adjoining rooms in an old Sally-bury building held by the owners of housing—one a lawyer, the other a businessman. The fact that they are working out of the same premises is taken as a sign that at least the internal representatives of Zapu and Zanu want to contest the election jointly as the Patriotic Front.

However, Mr Nziramasanga, speaking as an individual and not of course as a party spokesman, was not prepared to be drawn on this point. "I cannot say at the moment whether it will be the PF which is contesting the election or Zapu-PF and Zanu-PF."

Mr Nziramasanga does suffer from other disadvantages in addition to being officially silenced. He said he did not really know how the election would be fought as this would be decided by the parties' leadership, and they were all in London. Having spent most of the past 14 years in detention he had to admit that he was a little out of touch with recent developments.

On Tuesday plainclothes police also searched the homes of four members of the editorial board of the unofficial journal *Polski*. Several typewriters and documents were removed and the four men, Pyotr Yegides, Vladimir Sorokin, Valery Abramkin and Yuri Grinman, were questioned.

The Prime Minister continues to have overall responsibility for the Civil Service.

He will be accompanied by his wife, Mary, a daughter of Sir Winston Churchill, who has a reputation for excelling in arts of diplomacy.

Our Diplomatic Correspondent writes: The election commissioner, named yesterday, is to be Sir John Baynton, former chief executive of Cheshire county council. His deputy will be Mr J. A. Cumber, former Commissioner in Anguilla. The police adviser to the Governor will be Sir James Brightton, former Chief Constable of Merseyside.

At the Lancaster House the argument over assembly points for the Patriotic Front forces continued today, with Mr Mugabe and Mr Nkomo refusing to disclose the numbers of their forces, until they are satisfied about the location of the Rhodesian forces.

**Five years' jail for wife of Scientologist**

Washington, Dec 7—Mrs Mary Sue Hubbard, wife of Mr Ray Hubbard, founder of the Church of Scientology, was jailed today for five years for plotting to steal Government documents about the church.

She had been convicted on October 26 with eight other Scientologists of conspiring to infiltrate United States Government agencies to obtain information about the church.

The prosecution alleged that the Scientologists committed scores of break-ins at Government offices including the Justice Department and the Internal Revenue Service and maintained a network of spies.

Under an agreement between defence and prosecution lawyers, the Scientologists agreed not to challenge any evidence.

Judge Charles Richey also fined Mrs Hubbard \$10,000 (\$4,545), and ordered prison officials to interview her and report in three months time on whether her jail sentence should be reduced.

He jailed three other Scientologists for four years each and fined them each \$10,000. Reuter.

**Two die in jail riot**

Soleld, California, Dec 7—Two prisoners were killed and 18 injured in a race riot at the California state prison last night, a spokesman said.

The militants also announced that a special conference would be held shortly to expose American crimes to the world and introduce the Islamic

lawyers will be put on trial. There will be no exceptions. They will go before a revolutionary court which will be open to world observers. We don't know what the outcome of the trial will be.

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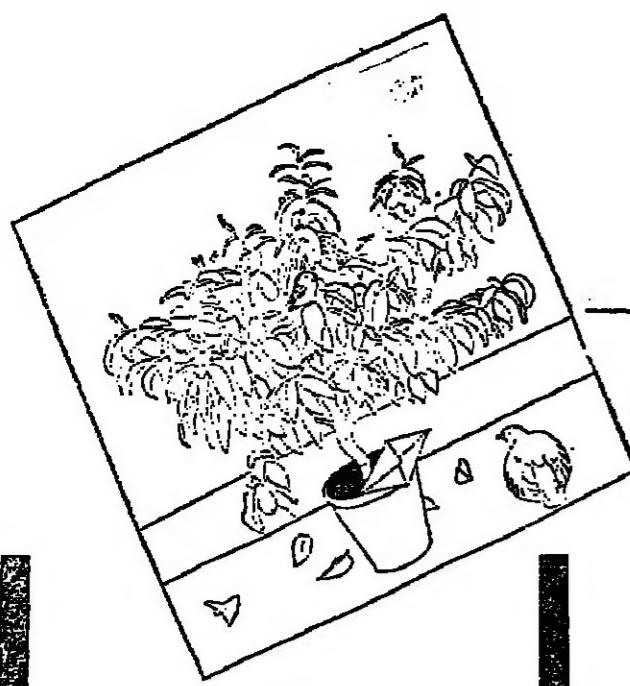
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# Saturday Review



On the first day of Christmas  
my true love sent to me  
A partridge in a pear tree ...

But the partridge turned out to be a moulting sparrow and the pear tree was wilting badly when it was delivered by Inter-Partridge-In-a-Pear-Tree Ltd, who were banking (as they do every Christmas) on people like us not being ungracious enough to look gift partridge in the mouth.

Partridges in pear trees costing what they do these days, I take the view that not complaining only encourages this kind of sharp practice. So I rang Inter-Partridge-In-a-Pear Tree Ltd and asked, in the politest way, of course, to try again. The smoky manager categorically denied that the partridge was in fact a sparrow and insisted that the pear tree was positively blossoming when it left his shop. "You probably stood it too near a radiator," he said. Stalemate.

Legally there was nothing I could do, because the law affords protection only to the buyer of gifts and not the receiver. So I telephoned my true love and filled her in on what happened. By trying to pass off a sparrow as a partridge, the shop was guilty of an offence under the Trade Descriptions Act, which carries a fine of up to £400 and/or a two-year jail sentence. (The offence should be reported to the Trading Standards Officer at your town hall and he will take the appropriate action.) As for the drooping pear tree ... my true love would have had a claim here under the Sale of Goods Act. The Act puts the retailer—not the manufacturer—under a legal obligation to supply goods which are:

1. Of merchantable quality.
2. Fit for the purpose for which they are sold.
3. Which meet the description applied to them.

It doesn't matter what you are buying—a new car, a packet of hair-clips or a partridge in a pear tree. Nor whether you paid cash or bought it on HP. Nor whether it was bought in a sale or a discount warehouse or by mail order. Nor whether you bought it two or even five years ago. Provided you can prove that the defect was there when the goods were bought, the law protects you.

My true love pointed this out to the manager of Inter-Partridge-In-A-Pear-Tree Ltd, who sensibly realized that unless he pulled his finger out, he was going to find himself in a lot of unnecessary trouble. So he immediately dispatched a replacement partridge in a pear tree.



On the second day of Christmas  
my true love sent to me  
Two turtle doves and a partridge  
in a pear tree

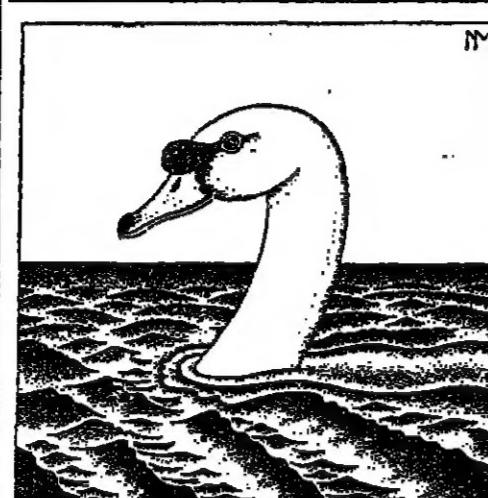
The partridge and the pear tree were just perfect, thank you, as a result of the prompt and firm action taken by my true love. But the turtle doves didn't arrive. My true love said she sent them by British Rail Red Star express parcels service, but when I went to collect them at my local station, the clerk couldn't find any trace of them. "Come back tomorrow," he advised me. But my turtle doves will probably be dead by then, I told him. He shrugged his shoulders and carried on filling out his pools coupon.

This is one of those all-too-familiar Catch-22 situations in which railway employee A swears he dispatched my true love's turtle doves and that they are now in the possession of employee B, but employee B categorically denies the doves ever left employee A. It's known as passing the buck and is a well-known tactic in state-run industries to bewilder the customer into submission.

No point wasting valuable time dealing with an uninterested parcels office clerk who is more interested in filling out his football pools. Nor, at this stage, did I wish to take up Sir Peter Parker's kind invitation to BR customers to send their complaints direct to him. Instead I telephoned the general manager of the region (whose name and address is obligingly listed in the front of the time table for that particular region). His over-protective secretary would not put my call through until I told her I was calling from Lytham St Anne's ("I'm from the winners tracing section at Premium Bond HQ and I think I may have some good news for him"). Quick as a flash he was on the line. I explained my problem and apologized for playing such a dirty trick, but hoped he would understand that time is of the essence since my true love's turtle doves are worth £2,000 a pair. If he suspected this was another white lie, he wasn't prepared to take a chance on it. Two hours later, my true love's turtle doves were traced to York station where they had been mistaken for racing pigeons and were about to be released.

## Consumers' Christmas

by Christopher Ward



On the seventh day of Christmas  
my true love sent to me  
Seven swans a-swimming ...

Three of the swans couldn't swim, two weren't white, as specified on the order form, and the remaining two looked more like geese than swans. My true love immediately tried to get in touch with the Seven-Swans-a-Swimming mail order company who had supplied them. Their telephone number was unobtainable and they didn't reply to my true love's letters. So she wrote to the Advertising Standards Authority giving all the details of the original advertisement, when she sent off her money, etc. They investigated her complaint and in the meantime, prevented the firm from placing any further advertisements. My true love wrote a similar letter to the advertising manager of the newspaper where she saw the offer. She was much cheered up to learn that, if the mail-order firm went bankrupt, she would be able to recover their money from a "disaster fund" set up by the Newspaper Publishers' Association—provided that the paper or magazine is a member, of course.

**Illustrations by**  
1: John Short 2: Brian Grimwood 3: Marc 4: Calman 5: Mick Brownfield 6: Bill Sanderson 7: Norman Messenger 8: Alan Crookshank 9: Michael Trevithick 10: Peter Brookes 11: Paige 12: Cole



On the eighth day of Christmas  
my true love sent to me  
Eight maids a-milking ...

My true love indeed paid for eight maids, but only six turned up. So she went round to register a complaint with Maids-a-Milking Ltd, and she set about it in exactly the right way. She didn't thump the counter. She didn't swear. She didn't grumble, remembering that if you let a complaint deteriorate into a moan you're likely to remind the area manager of his nagging wife and be treated accordingly. She didn't succumb to an attack of verbal diarrhoea and drone on for three-quarters of an hour until her audience was asleep with boredom. She didn't put the man's back up by adopting a "Look here my man!" approach. She was firm, factual, and came straight to the point. Within an hour, two more maids-a-milking were knocking on my door, full of apologies.



On the ninth day of Christmas  
my true love sent to me  
Nine drummers drumming ...

The people next door complained. Almost any row that causes unreasonable disturbance—even the noisy love-making of the couple upstairs—is considered to be "pollution" these days. My neighbours



On the twelfth day of Christmas  
my true love sent to me  
Twelve lords a-leaping ...

Unlike the eleven dancing ladies, they never got here because the airline inadvertently double-booked them and they had to wait 24 hours for the next flight. But at least they came out of it showing a profit. Most of the big airlines have agreed to pay a "no argument compensation" if you are "bumped", as it is called, from a flight on which you had a confirmed booking. The agreed rate for compensating you for denied boarding is vaguely one half of the cost of a one-way ticket to your destination, provided that you have to wait four hours or more. The minimum they will pay is £10, the maximum £100. They also have to reimburse you for any reasonable expenses you might incur as a result of the delay.

On the thirteenth day of Christmas my true love said to me twelve lords-a-leaping, eleven ladies dancing, ten pipers piping, nine drummers drumming, eight maids-a-milking, seven swans a-swimming, six geese a-laying, five gold rings, four colly birds, three French hens, two turtle doves and a partridge in a pear tree ... certainly prove that it's worth complaining.

© Christopher Ward.

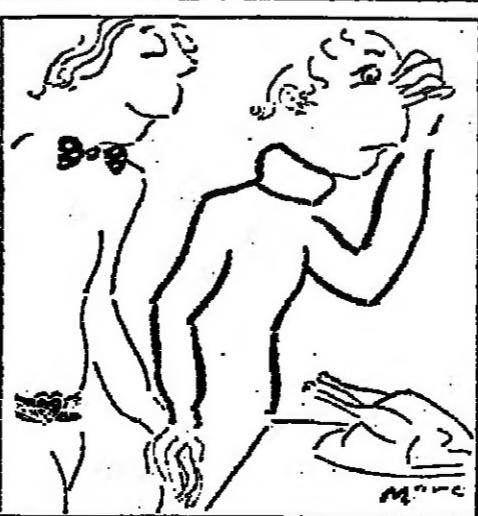
Christopher Ward is the author of *How to Complain*, published in an updated and enlarged edition by Secker and Warburg at £5.95.

sought advice and discovered they had three courses of action open to them to stop my nine drummers drumming.

1. Under Common Law they could ask a solicitor to apply for an injunction to stop the noise, on the grounds that it is "materially interfering with their comfort". Expensive though.

2. They could themselves instigate a prosecution at the magistrates' court under the Control of Pollution Act, 1974. The Clerk of the Court would help them prepare an application for a Noise Abatement notice.

3. They could report my nine drummers drumming to the Environmental Health Officer at the Town Hall, and ask him to intercede on their behalf. He did and on the tenth day of Christmas I sent my nine drummers packing.



On the fourth day of Christmas  
my true love sent to me  
Four colly birds, three French hens,  
two turtle doves and a  
partridge in a pear tree

At least, she ordered four colly birds, but they never arrived because the shop failed to meet the promised delivery date. Shopkeepers are always optimistic about delivery dates when you place the order. It's only later that they tell you about the strike at the works, the fowl-pest sweeping Botswana and the world shortage of tennis balls, all of which are conspiring to deprive you of the colly birds you were promised for the fourth day of Christmas.

What can you do to hold shopkeepers



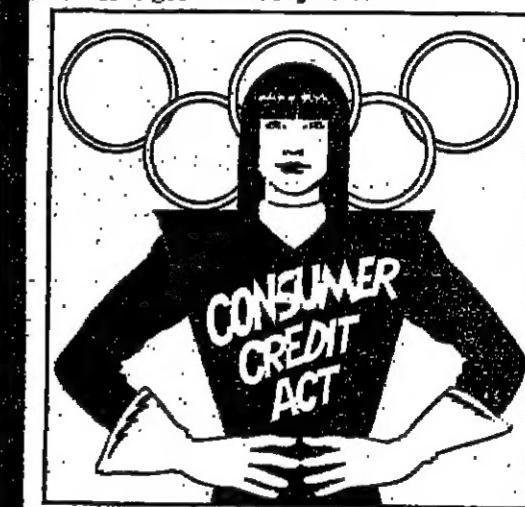
On the sixth day of Christmas  
my true love sent to me  
Six geese a-laying ...

Trouble was, none of the geese laid. My true love and I took them back to the livestock suppliers from whom she had bought them and the owner pointed to a disclaimer notice on the wall which said: "While the Management takes every care to ensure that the laying geese sold on these premises can lay, it cannot be held responsible if the aforementioned geese do not lay."

Fortunately for my true love, the small print—or "exclusion clauses", as they are known—are no longer the can tricks they used to be. Thanks to the Unfair Contract Terms Act, 1977, no one can wash his hands of responsibility or disclaim liability by pointing to clause 198 (c) iii buried away in the terms and conditions.

Those whose coats have disappeared from cloakrooms, whose clothes have been ruined by dry-cleaners, whose cars have been vandalized while in the safe keeping of a car-park attendant, will recognize the new Act as a real boon to the down-trodden customers.

Basically the Act offers two safeguards. 1. No one can disclaim responsibility for death and injury in any contract or notice. Such signs have no effect in law. 2. Whatever the customers signs or agrees to, liability for loss or damage cannot unreasonably be avoided. Travel agents, builders, cloakroom attendants, dry-cleaners, garages ... none of these people can duck their responsibilities to the customers any more. On the sixth day of Christmas my true love got her money back.



On the eleventh day of Christmas  
my true love sent to me  
Eleven ladies dancing ...

They would never have got here at all if they hadn't realized the importance of strength in numbers. When the guard of their train blew his whistle and yelled, "All change!", they decided to exploit passenger power and stay put. They staged a sit-in demo, which is probably the best kind of demo of all, because it involves nothing more strenuous than remaining in your seat. It is the only known deterrent against those in the public transport business who, having promised to take us from A to B, try to drop us off at A+1. After muttered threats to shunt them into the sidings for the night, British Rail thought again and took them to their destination.



She nearly didn't send me five gold rings though, because, being a bit short of cash, she wanted to buy them on HP. To her surprise her application for credit was turned down. As she had never defaulted on a debt, she was more than a little put out, was my true love.

Under the Consumer Credit Act, if a shop or finance company turn down your application for credit, you are entitled to know if they have consulted a credit agency which keeps a black list of real or imagined "bad risks". The shop or finance company must also tell you the name of the agency. You should then write to the agency, enclosing a 25p fee, asking for a copy of any file they have on you. Under the Act they have to do this.

If the agency's file is wrong, you can ask them to correct it. If they decline to do so, you can still write a note of correction up to 200 words long which the agency must then attach to your file and give to anyone who makes further enquiries about your credit-worthiness. If the agency fails to do this, or doesn't reply, you should ask the Director General of Fair Trading to intervene on your behalf.

My true love, however, found that as soon as she started talking about the Consumer Credit Act, all the problems about arranging easy terms disappeared.



But he sent them  
in the fourth day of  
LAST Christmas.

and manufacturers to their promises? As I told my true love, when you place an order, make it clear (preferably in writing) that you must have the goods by a certain date. When they don't arrive in time (as is, usually the case) you can then cancel the order, recover your deposit and claim damages for the inconvenience and expense to which you have been put. The very threat of this is often enough to ensure that the shopkeeper gets your colly birds to your loved one in time.

## Clive Barnes/New York notebook

### An addiction to a cabaret jester

Brecht and Weill—Marks and Spencer they were not, but their names will be forever linked. Who was the more important? Bertolt Brecht, indisputably one of the great playwrights of our century, or a place a man who invented a special style of staging. The word Brechtian is an adjective that may not yet be in our dictionaries—it would be painfully difficult for lexicographers and their bureaucratic minions to define—but it exists. It is a way of looking at the theatre, and no one who has ever seen the Berlin Ensemble, even in its post-Brechtian manifestation, can fail to realize this.

But who will the next century regard as the more important? Perhaps Kurt Weill, Brecht's musical collaborator. An oddity of a composer, a man whose history, at least as present, doesn't precisely step with the ongoing march of time.

Undoubtedly in the new edition of Grove's *Encyclopedia of Music and Musicians*, Arnold Schoenberg, Igor Stravinsky, to pick just two somewhat odd musical personalities, will be taken more seriously than that cabaret jester, with hardly more than one significant tune in his head, Kurt Weill. They could be wrong. But they also could be right.

The Metropolitan Opera just offered its first staging of *The Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny*, and a couple of weeks earlier two cabaret performers—they are actually also distinguished actors—Martha Schlamme and Alvin Epstein, opened a Broadway evening of Weill songs from Berlin to Broadway and back. They even turned up with Brechtian music in French that I have never heard before. For Weill bodies like myself, it was an evening to cherish.

So now I have given my cards away. I happen to be totally addicted to Weill. To me Weill is the inheritor of a

musical style, whose musicals were infected in totality, who derived his musical roots from Gustav Mahler, and possibly Richard Strauss, and even Wagner. He was also a gutter composer, who listened to the sound of urinals and the noise of people. He was politically radical, and just as Bertolt wanted people's music so Weill wanted a people's music. In fact, all things considered, what does it want but Shakespeare did, and so did Beethoven.

The Mer. Mahagonny however is everything it should not be. It is tragically boring, and James Levine conducts as if he has a very remote idea of the score he is conducting. It all sounds very glossy and very unusual. The cast turns out to be paper tigers. Given the experience of the original cast—Ragnar Ulfung, Cornelius Meinen, Astrid Varnay (as Beghich), Richard Caselli, Arturo Sergi, Paul Plitschikoff, but only Terese Stratas, the always reliable Stratas, is really the single one who comes through as Jenny.

The expectations of the Metropolitan Opera are quite simply extreme. You sit there in those plush seats, look at the Austrian-gifted chandeliers and the now shabby gilt-paint, and you instinctively expect *Aida*. You will forgive the absence of the camels and the elephants after all when you bought your subscription no one told you that this was the Caracalla Baths, but on the other hand you expect some measure of grandeur. Nor was it in the final count, Mr Levine's fault that he couldn't get it right, the orchestra isn't the singers. Grandeur isn't the answer. *Mahagonny* is a kind of song about the even bitter fruits of avarice. It was written for a departing people, and its music lingers like a September song in the wasting winds of November. Not for the Met. Irony of ironies, *Moses and Aaron* works better.

You might have expected that this would have been John Dexter's fault, who after all directed it. Well, it certainly is not as imaginatively staged as the famous Hamburg production or even that of Peter Sellars' Wells. Nor was it as well done as a much-maligned off-Broadway production which gave the opera its New York premiere some years ago. Yet Dexter, much helped by Jocelyn Herbert's brutalist scenery and costumes, GH Wechsler's coldly black lighting, and the extremely plain English translation by David Drew, and Michael Geltow, cannot get the play running and going.

But even if Weill has taken a beating at the Met, and you could hear different reports of that, his influence on theatre music is still strong. For example, I cannot believe that Stephen Sondheim's vivid pop-opera on Broadway, *Sweeney Todd*, could possibly have found life without the mercurial presence of Weill. For that matter Harold Prince's flamboyant, tough and mean-spirited staging of another pop-opera, Andrew Lloyd-Webber's *Evita*, could not have existed without Brecht.

The influence of Weill on music theatre—and for that matter, in terms of attitude, of Brecht—will continue. But not I suspect in the Opera House. Weill's theatre is a musical that has a spawn, a generation that Verdi, Wagner, Strauss and Puccini frankly lack. Kurt Weill's *Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny*, staged by Harry Prince, or for that matter John Dexter, could be a Broadway success. *Mahagonny* is a kind of folk-song about the even bitter fruits of avarice. It was written for a departing people, and its music lingers like a September song in the wasting winds of November. Not for the Met. Irony of ironies, *Moses and Aaron* works better.

people are actually not writing surviving operas any more.

The strange but arresting entertainment, *Tongues*, now at the Other Stage at the New York Shakespeare Festival's Public Theater, is described as "a collaboration between Sam Shepard and Joseph Chaikin". And that is precisely what it is. The evening is split into two monologues for Chaikin, but perhaps with equal fairness they could be regarded as concertos for a stream of subconsciousness and music—for in both the music, written by Shepard himself in the first episode, and Shepard joined by Skip LaPlante and Harry Mann in the second, plays a vital and dramatic role.

The first of these monologues is called *Tongues* and the second is called *Savage Love*. In *Tongues* Mr Chaikin is discovered posing against a brick wall—a wall incidentally as lovingly textured and as any wall in a Vernon street scene. Mr. Chaikin looks like an amiable papa, a visitor from inner space. He is alert and cheery. His eyes gleam and even his hair seems to bristle with intelligence. Now he lets us into his confidence. He has had a revelation in a post-office. He has fallen in love with someone. And so it goes—this skeleton of rhapsodic love, full of self-seeking. Soon we notice that Mr. Chaikin is almost as much concerned on how he seems to the object of his love as with the object of his love itself. "I am presenting," he tells us, "a presentation of myself".

That is what he is certainly doing. It is as though he is standing in front of some hidden camera, making up and composing himself, arranging his features and his thoughts for some portrait of himself that he hopes to cherish. It is a subtle, compelling little work, and indeed it is difficult to see where Shepard leaves off and Chaikin takes over. It



Show me the way to the next whiskey bar—*Mahagonny* at the Met.

anything the second collaboration is even more wispy than the first, more elusive and even more haunting. *Savage Love* it has Mr. Chaikin perched upon something like a simple throne expounding a dream of life and death. The structure of this piece appears to be short, almost haiku-like poems, diverging like a peacock's tail, and the words, the gestures, the body language, the movement, the lighting is by Beverly Emmons. But the final impression is of Shepard's gnomic musings and Chaikin's tough/innocent, bold, unscrupulous-on-face, seeming to stare into the near-distance of the heart.

(case lots only). In the south of France, the Sierras range, from Grau du Roi, are more individual than many of these small-scale wines that can be pleasant on holiday, but appear somewhat 'peuts vins' in our raw winter climate. The white Espagnol Vin Blanc Perlé, a vin de table with a touch of verde—*à la jolie*, a violin verde—and a fustyle that makes it good as an aperitif, with butter food, that includes mayonnaise, salads and strong seasonings (£1.89 from Robert James). This makes a good gift—it tastes far more expensive than most would guess!

A pair of regional French wines I continue to find good for everyday and casual drinking are the white Vip Vert Corbières Montagne d'Alaric, VDQS, from Cicéron, light, very dry, and the smooth, neatly named red Vin de Coule, from the same Corbières establishment. Both £1.99 from Haynes, Hanover & Clark, 36, Kensington Church Street, W8. This firm also have a red called Vin de Cognac, VdP des Pays de l'Aveyron, a slightly tougher southern wine for £1.89.

Argentine wines deserve a feature in themselves but just now, when economical stews, stuffed vegetables and variations on sausage dishes are in season, attention should be drawn to two reds ideal for partnering such recipes, when something gutsy is welcome—these will also stand up to egg dishes. The red wine from the Francheville range, from Vinos Argentinos, has unusually had about four years maturing. It makes a refreshing change. Peter Dominic Montilla, in the "fine dry" and "medium dry" styles for £1.53 a bottle and Robert James (79 Aslett Street, SW1) have four Montilles, pale dry, medium, dry, golden and cream, for £1.99; Robert James has begun to be known for their six bottle packs, which can be assured. Their Montillas cost £1.94 for six. Lanzas (28 Midland Road, NW1) have seven examples of the 1978 vintage Primero, including the rather smoky, well-balanced version for £34.20 (cash and carry, per case), and Drouhin's slightly heavier but fluid wine for £42.20. My own choice, for immediate consumption—this wine really should be drunk soon—and good for pre-Christmas parties, would be the light, prettily fragrant wine from Pellerin, which costs £2.80.

Two wines from La Mancha, called Vina Bonita, have just been introduced by Wines of Spain (The Fruit Exchange, 10, Victoria Street, Liverpool, L2). The white is clean-cut, dry and sufficiently full to partner quite robust food. The red is moderately full and a pleasant, mouth-filling drink, both good value for £1.65 each.

Pamela Vandyke Price

## Collecting

### Swashbuckling biscuit tins

Before plastic became the material that anyone of taste was expected to despise, tin held that position for more than a century. "Tinny" and "tinpot" expressed the general scorn. Yet from the eighteenth century onwards, some delightful wares were made in this now-U material.

The tinplate industry was introduced into Britain about the middle of the seventeenth century after Andrew Marvell, author of *England's Improvement by Sea and Land*, had visited Saxony to learn the secrets of the process. But the first successful enterprise in Britain was made at Pontypool, Monmouthshire, by John Huntley (1664-1734) in the early eighteenth century. Huntley replaced the old method of bearing iron bars into sheets under huge hammers by a new method of flattening them between heavy rollers.

Tinplate (largely replaced in the twentieth century by metal plated with nickel or chromium, by aluminium and by various plastic compounds) was popular because of its resistance to rust and the ease with which it could be cut, bent and soldered. Japanese ware ("Japan") was an adaptation of an oriental art, an attempt to produce a lacquer similar to that used by the Japanese.

Factories were established at Pontypool in association with Huntley's ironworks, and at Usk, Monmouth. The early wares were thinly rolled sheets of iron, but soon after the successful development at Pontypool of the tinplating process, tinplate was substituted for plain iron and was the basis for "Japan" until paper-manufacture took over in the mid-nineteenth century. In this era were made trays and salvers, chestnut urns for carrying hot chestnuts from the fire to the table, knife boxes, tureens, candlesticks, clock-face plates, tea urns, kettles, rice paddies, coffee pots, chafing-dishes and snuff boxes. At Usk, "cheese cradles" to hold bulk Welsh cheese were made. A popular form of decoration was in imitation of tortoiseshell. Thomas Thomas of the Punch House, Pontypool, wrote in his enjoyably bad doggerel of 1799, the *Pontypool Ode*:

The yielding sheets assume an endless form;  
And figures gay the polished black adorn;  
The swelling urn its lonely blue displays;  
And beauteous tortoiseshells are view'd on trays.

More common were straight copies of red or black Japanese lacquer, and wares in this style now command high prices. Mrs Susan Benjamin, of Halcyon Days, 14 Brook Street, London W1, currently has in stock a tray, 30in wide, decorated with a view of a riverside country mansion within a glowing "Chinese red" ground, at £730, and a pair of matching chestnut urns, 13in high, also of about £730, or £520 the pair.

But you do not have to spend hundreds of pounds to collect decorative tins. A new book, *Decorative Printed Tins* by Dorothy Parry-Cooke (Studio Vista, £6.95) illustrates and discusses some of the vast range of tins for biscuits, toffees, tobacco, mustard, gramophone needles and other products made between the 1850s and 1940. Mr Griffith is

the son of that resonant-voiced Welsh actor, Kenneth Griffith, who began collecting tins of military and imperial interest (English ones might say) after a visit to Ladysmith had begun a fascination with the Boer War. David Griffith caught the collecting bug from his father.

As he points out, the craze for Victorian and Edwardian tins only began in the 1960s,

when, after the austerity of 1940s and 1950s, the hideously unfashionable Victorians began to be appreciated for its exuberance and decadence.

That was also the decade of

military nostalgia.

John Huntley's "Valer" in Carnaby Street, and of arrests of young

people for wearing the Queen's uniform when not entitled to it.

The swashbuckling art of the biscuit tin, fitted into that fashion well. With the 1970s, a more analytic study of the tins began. An exhibition of them was held at the Victoria and Albert Museum in 1971, and later young Robert Opie's collection of advertising material, including tins, was replaced by a friendly Belgian.

Griffith records that some of

the earlier versions have been

found with the German seafar-

men's name on them.

In printed tins which are

more and more ingenious and

fanciful; in some, the biscuits

were almost inaccessible.

Chinese wares and Japanese

wares were imitated. After

Tutankhamun's tomb was dis-

covered in 1922, an "Egyptian

Ur" was issued. Some of

the boxes had moving parts, includ-

ing a grandfather clock with

revolving sails, and a perambulator with wheels (a chattering baby and teddy were painted on the top).

A sentry box, originally containing English,

French and German

sentries, was tactfully altered as

anti-German feelings built up.

There were the First World War

Chapman's Mustard

and of course the German

Army.

One of the latest boxes

illustrated by Griffith is a

"Biscuit" tin, 1937-40, in the

form of a lorry.

It is a copy of a

1902 tin by the

firm of Tipton.

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## ENTERTAINMENTS

**S** Unpaid seats at cut price to students just before performances

## OPERA AND BALLET

**COVENT GARDEN** £5 240 1000  
Gardens, Covent Garden, WC2H 4BY.  
**THE ROYAL OPERA**

The & Thus: 7.30. **COSI FAN TUTTI**. The Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, WC2H 4BY. Seats available for all parts from Friday 13 Dec.

**THE ROYAL BALLET**

Mon. & Wed.: 7.30. **La Bayadère**, 65

Adult seats available for all parts from Friday 13 Dec.

**ROYAL GALA CHARITY PERE. OF DIE FLIEDEMERAS**

(Presented by Hostess Estates)

16 Jan. 1980

In the presence of Her Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother, A United

£10. 85. 23. Sat. & Sun. **Andy Bell**, Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, WC2H 4BY.

**COLISEUM** Credit cards 240 256.

**ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA**

Tuesday & Tues.: 7.30. **The Magic Flute**.

Fri. 7.30. Sat. & Sun. **Die Zauberflöte**.

from 10 am on days of perf.

**SADLER'S WELLS THEATRE** Rochester

Tonight: 7.30. **London Contemporary Dance Theatre**

Tomorrow: 7.30. **Clown Kingdom**

## CONCERTS

**St. Paul's Cathedral** Wilson Place, Knightsbridge, S.W.1.

**BATH SOCIETY** Dursley, Glos. S. 8.30.

**CHRISTMAS ORATORIO**

St. Paul's Festival Choir and Orchestra

Soloists: Alison Harlan, Rosemary Greenblatt, Anthony Remondi,

Francesca Moore, Oboe: Sarah Francis,

Conductor: Nicholas Bonford.

Conductor: Richard Letham.

Admission by donation at the door £2.00

## THEATRES

**DRURY LANE** S. 1.30. 210. 210. 210.

Eves. 8.0. Wed. 8.0. 8.45 & 9.45.

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## PERSONAL CHOICE



Steve Jones, host of the new Ann Bell, who appears in talent show 'Search for a Star' John Whiting's play No More A-Roving (Radio 4, 8.30)

I make no apologies for giving pride of place today to a radio play. It is *No More A-Roving*, by John Whiting (Radio 4, 8.30). Mr Whiting died, too young (he was only 45) and something of a martyr, in 1963. Most of his plays (*The Gates of Summer*, *Marching Song*, *Saint's Day* among them) were unusually intelligent, sometimes obscure and had brilliant theatrical flashes. Commercially they were write-offs. The critics did not like them, or did not understand them, or over-praised them. The one box-office success was *The Devils of Lounan*, a predictable outcome given the subject matter. Tonight's radio play, Whiting's first, has never been produced before, anywhere, and these are two reasons why the broadcast is an event. It is set in 1946 and is the story of a reunion of old friends. Funny and painful, says the *Radio Times*. In a word, then, quintessential Whiting. Alan Howard, one of the darlings of the Royal Shakespeare Company, shares the principal billing with Ann Bell.

While I am on the subject of radio, let me remind you of one or two other programmes you might prefer to listen to tonight if the TV bill of fare does not appeal. Alastair Cooke, who has been doing it through a job with American popular music and jazz as he always does with world affairs, brings his excellent *The Golden Age*: 1920-1950 series to an end (Radio 3, 1.05) with what he calls a summing-up. Famous names all the way—Ella Fitzgerald, Al Jolson, Gershwin, Whitehead, Ethel Waters, Goodman, Crosby, Astaire... At the other end of the music scale, there is a performance of Don Giovanni by Scottish Opera, direct from the Theatre Royal, Glasgow, with Robert Lloyd in the title role.

Constantly, one hears the complaint: why has the flow of new variety stars dried up? Durable stars, they mean, not those who bravely twinkle for a while and then melt away into a black hole. Is it merely a question of lack of opportunity? I suspect it is merely a question of lack of original talent. Watch any of the so-called star discovery programmes on television and the same derivative acts crowd each other's heels. Once in a while, true, the heart-missed beat as a new performance of one of the well-beaten track and field comes along. But that is a rare occurrence. Tonight (ITV, 8.15) sees the start of a new talent-seeking series, *Search for a Star*. That it is a search, we must take for granted. Whether it will find a star is something else again.

*André Previn* can be seen, and heard, in peak condition tonight. By that I mean that he conducts the Vienna Phil in a performance of Richard Strauss's gigantic Alpine Symphony, and that, at intervals, we are wrenched away from the players to be taken on a mini-tour of the jagged peaks of the Bernese Oberland in Switzerland. As this symphony is totally programmematic, we are entitled to ask whether the pictures are necessary. I submit that you will miss little if you close your eyes, and just listen.

WHAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN: \* STEREO; \*\* BLACK AND WHITE; (R) REPEAT.

## PERSONAL CHOICE



Jon Finch who plays the king in Shakespeare's Henry IV, Part 1 tonight (BBC 2, 7.15)

The leviathan is on the move again. Tonight (BBC 2, 7.15) brings the start of the second block of BBC Television's *Shakespeare: The Complete Works*. We shall all have grown older by the time the cycle ends in 1984. Older but culturally transformed, though I suspect that right until the end, heads will shake and wiseacres will say the BBC tackled the mighty task with too much regard for Shakespearean tradition and too little for experiment. *Henry IV*, Part 1 certainly plays it straight and traditional. Textual cuts apart, there is little joy here for theatrical liberals if you exclude Falstaff's relieving himself on the field at Shrewsbury, a generous outpouring of Welsh from Sharon Morgan's Lady Mortimer, and a flashback to Richard II. Fine verse-speaking from Jon Finch's king (though not much happens behind the eyes), ripe clothing laced with wisdom and pathos from Anthony Quayle's Falstaff and subtle intimations of future kingship from David Gwillim's Hal. Advance signals of another kind come from George Melly, critic and jazz singer, whose thoughts on *Henry IV* in *Shakespeare in Perspective* (BBC 2, 5.45) wonderfully set both scene and mood.

By sheer coincidence, I am assured, ITV's cultural offering tonight, *The South Bank Show* (10.30), finds inspiration in the Bard. It is a masterclass by the Royal Shakespeare Company. Trevor Nunn, the director, goes back to Shakespeare's own era to explain how verse speaking has changed over the centuries. Fellow directors Terry Hands and John Barton assist the process, and they call on actors like Alan Howard, Jane Lapotaire, David Suchet and Ian McKellen to give the words a twist.

Some first reactions to the first instalment of *The Old Curiosity Shop* (BBC 1, 5.35). We get a Quill from Trevor Peacock who is Cathermote incarnate; a Little Nell from Natalie Ogle who is Dickens's original creation but with blood and not rose water in her veins; remarkably detailed sets after Phiz, and an edited text (by William Trevor) which would not, I think, have made *Boz* wince too much.

To make amends for drawing readers' attention to a performance of Dvorak's sun-packed *Symphony No 8* some weeks ago without saying where it could be heard, let me say that you can hear it this morning (Radio 3, 12.15) played by the Vienna Philharmonic under Christopher von Dohnanyi. Just as many melodies in this work, I guarantee, as in your *Hundred Best Tunes* (Radio 2, 9.02 pm). A remarkable cast (Richard Briers, Simon Phillips, Peter Jeffrey, Sarah Edwards, Norman Rodway, for starters) bespangles *A Chaste Maid in Cheapside*, the rollicking and naughty Jacobean black comedy repeated on Radio 3 at 7.15. Originally by Thomas Middleton, now by Peter Kenna.

WHAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN: \* STEREO; \*\* BLACK AND WHITE; (R) REPEAT.

## Broadcasting Guide

Edited by Peter Davalle

## TELEVISION

## BBC 1

9.05 Cut and Thrust: the art of the espie. Penultimate section of this series on fencing.  
9.30 Multi-Coloured Swap Shop: very varied magazine programme for the young. Including: behind-the-scenes visit to the Star Trek movie set in Hollywood and Jody Schechter, champion racing driver, answers viewers' questions.  
12.15 Grandstand: items are: 12.20 Football Focus: 12.50 Racing from Cheltenham (also at 1.15pm, 2.00pm); 1.15pm: 1.20pm: 1.25pm: 1.30pm: 1.35pm: 1.45pm: 2.20pm Boxing (various, middleweight championship, Vito Antinori v Marvin Hagler); 2.45 Gymnastics: Championships (from Texas); 3.15 Rugby League (Wiltshire v Working-

ton); 4.45 Cross Country: 4.48 Final Scores.  
5.05 Tom and Jerry: cartoon, Baby Puss.  
5.15 News: with Peter Woods. 5.25 Sport.  
5.30 The Basil Brush Show: The for his and his human friend find theoretical "digs" with comedienne Thora Hird.  
6.00 Dr Who: part 3 of Nightmare of Eden.  
6.25 Larry Grayson's Generation Game: the programme that is now topping the Top Twenty league table.  
6.30 The Basil Brush Show: The is pregnant and has to make a momentous decision.  
6.50 News: with Peter Woods.  
7.00 Match of the Day: highlights from two of today's football league games. Also pools check and Bob Wilson's round-up.  
7.10 Parkinsons: with Frank Muir Denis Norden, Joanna Lumley and David Bellamy.  
7.20 Secret Army: wartime adventure serial that rings true. Tonight: Capt Durnford rescues Montague from a mob led by Albert (Bernard Hepton) loses her.  
7.30 Shirley Bassey: She goes to

the Space Center at Cape Kennedy does space gear and sings Small World. Last Show in this dynamic singer's series.  
7.45 Dallas: Texas oil family drama. Tonight: Pamela finds she is pregnant and has to make a momentous decision.  
7.55 News: with Peter Woods.  
8.00 Match of the Day: highlights from two of today's football league games. Also pools check and Bob Wilson's round-up.  
8.15 Comedy First.  
8.30 News.  
8.45 Any Questions?  
8.55 News.  
9.00 Match of the Day.  
9.05 News Stand.  
10.05 The Week in Westminster.  
10.30 Daily Service.  
10.45 Pick of the Week: International Assignment.  
11.00 Parkinsons: with Frank Muir Denis Norden, Joanna Lumley and David Bellamy.  
12.02 pm Money Box.  
12.15 Comedy First.  
12.30 News.  
12.45 Any Questions?  
12.55 News.  
1.00 Match of the Day.  
1.15 News Stand.  
1.30 London Mozart Players (Hornes (live from Festival Hall): Haydn, Handel, Respighi, Bach, Brahms, Mozart).  
1.45 News.

1.55 Boston Pops Orch/Fiedler: Copland, J. Strauss, Litolff, Gottschalk.  
1.55 Weather.  
1.55 Today's Papers.  
2.00 News: 8.05 Records: G. Bush, Morley, Finzi, Warlock, Lambert.  
2.00 News.  
2.15 Record Review: 10.15 Record: Ex (Quarter 3).  
2.30 London Mozart Players (Hornes (live from Festival Hall): Haydn, Handel, Respighi, Bach, Brahms, Mozart).  
2.45 News.

2.55 Alistair Cooke on American popular music 1920-1950.  
2.55 Play It Again: 5.00 Jazz Review.

2.55 Critic's Forum.

2.55 Piano: Liszt, Wagner, Gounod.

2.55 Opera: Don Giovanni, by Mozart (Scottish Opera/Gibson, live from Glasgow), Act 1.

2.55 Music: 9.40 Look Ahead.

2.55 Financial News: 9.40 Look Ahead.

2.55 Sports: 12.00 News and weather.

2.55 World: 12.00 News and weather.

2.55 Sports: 12.00 News and weather.

2.55 Weather.

VHF 6.55 am Regional news, weather.  
7.55 Regional news, weather.  
10.30-11.20 Inside Parliament.

Radio 3 12.00-7.05 am Cricket: Australia v England.

7.05 Boston Pops Orch/Fiedler: Copland, J. Strauss, Litolff, Gottschalk.

7.55 Weather.

7.55 Today's Papers.

8.00 News: 8.05 Records: G. Bush, Morley, Finzi, Warlock, Lambert.

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9.15 Monday Night.

9.15 Tuesday Night.

9.15 Wednesday Night.

9.15 Thursday Night.

9.15 Friday Night.

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9.15 Wednesday Night.

9.15 Thursday Night.

9.15 Friday Night.

9.15 Saturday Night.

9.15 Sunday Night.

9.15 Monday Night.

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Illustration: David Hockney

Photo: David Hockney

Illustration: David Hockney

## Travel

## Starting where the express stopped

As the Boeing flies, Istanbul—  
together with Moscow—is the  
most distant of the cities of  
Europe you can visit on a cheap  
winter break. After a three-and-a-half-hour flight from London,  
and a three-hour time difference,  
you certainly feel you have  
come a long way. Leaving  
Heathrow before lunch, you  
arrive in time for a lateish  
dinner.

What is called a four-day  
holiday, you must reckon on a  
day and a half travelling and  
just three clear days in the city  
itself. Can it be worth it? If we  
had bad rotten weather on our  
January holiday—rainfall in  
Istanbul that month is almost  
twice as heavy as in London and,  
with little drainage, three times  
more unpleasant—our answer  
might have been equivocal. But we were lucky, and  
the seven of us—my wife, four  
children and daughter's friend  
—voted it one of the best holidays ever.

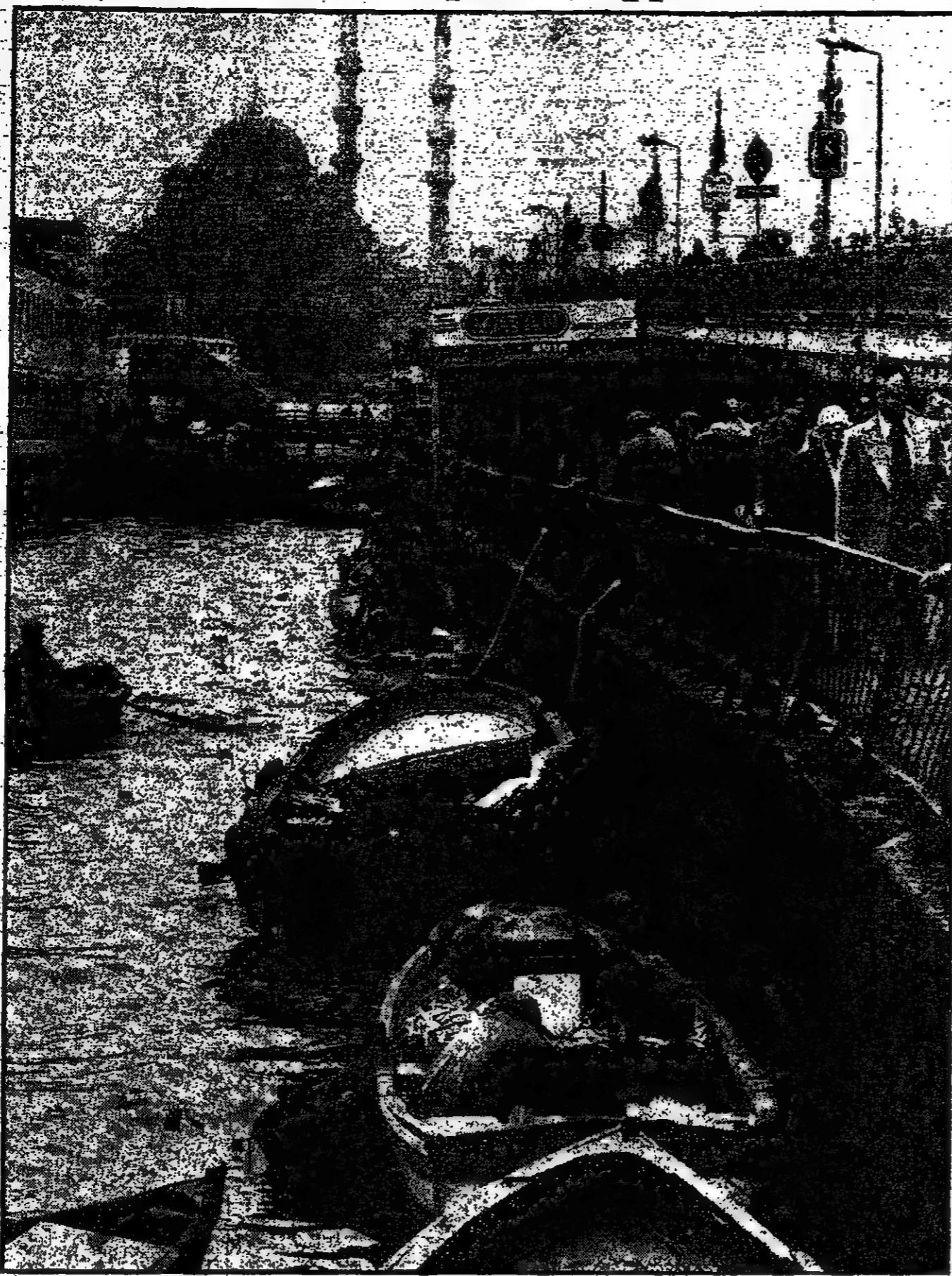
Our hotel was the Pera Palace,  
not the most expensive hotel  
but the most central and much  
the most atmospheric. Built by  
Thomas Cook himself in the  
1870's and full of sumptuous  
salons in the Ottoman style, it  
recalls the style of the Grand  
Tour and the Orient Express  
even if the pain is peeling in  
places and the carpets wearing  
thin. Shabby-grand is not every-  
one's taste. Some will prefer the  
dependable comforts of the  
Hilton further up the hill. And  
maybe Agatha Christie (fondly  
remembered by the affable com-  
mierge) is revolving in her grave  
at the top-tables of the Grand  
Hotel, Thomson and Sunquest  
holiday-makers. But we felt  
privileged to be staying at this  
splendid relic of the past and  
loved our handsome large  
rooms, with their heavy beds  
and huge adjoining bathrooms.  
We wished ourselves nowhere else.

Three days is of course an  
insufficiently short time to enjoy  
any notable capital city, especially  
one so rich in different  
sorts of treasure as Istanbul.  
But all holidays stretch or contract  
to fit the time available.

Hence in notebook form, are  
some of the things we managed  
to cram into our mini-  
vacation.

**Day one:** Generous breakfast  
but foul coffee and I minded  
sitting at the long Global table  
with Union Jack though it  
was the only time we were  
made to feel package apartheid.  
Walk down to the Golden Horn,  
threading way through anarchic  
traffic—red lights flouted, pavements  
appropriated. Cross to  
the old city and climb through  
medieval cobbled streets to the  
serene and austere splendour of  
the Mosque of Suleiman the  
Magnificent, one of the master-  
pieces of Islam, the local Christopher  
Wren. Michael Levey in  
*World of Ottoman Art* tells us  
not to miss the tomb of Sultan  
Ahmet and his wife in the  
cemetery, but these are disconcertingly  
closed. Back towards the  
harbour through crowded lanes  
of shops and stalls to another  
Sultan Mosque, Rüstem Paşa,  
with exquisite Iznik tiles,  
almost hidden among the alleys in  
the metal-workers' quarter.  
Brief sojourn of Turkish  
tummy but find relief in primitive  
public loo; an experience.  
Lunch in spice market in tiny  
restaurant recommended by in-  
valuable *Traveller's Guide* to  
Turkey; soup, mixed charcoal  
grill and salad and wonderful  
assortment of local sweets—  
all at less than £2 a head.  
Back to the hotel munching pi-  
nacolos for well-served sashas.  
At dusk set off by bus to the  
maze-like covered bazaar, for  
centuries an Aladdin's cave for  
seekers of souvenirs. Daughter  
buys a leather grip, two boys  
acquire hookahs, and third  
baggage to buy a shirt at £1  
which he doesn't really want but  
can't resist at the price. General  
happiness at success of nego-  
tiations. Am tempted by sheer  
skin jacket but abstain and feel  
smug at self-control.

Later, succumb to a four-kilo  
honey selling for just over £1  
in streetmarket, though  
to carry home and realize our  
house will flow with Turkish



Looking past the Galata Bridge towards the dome of the New Mosque.

honey for next 10 years. On to  
Cagaloglu Hamam, probably the  
city's oldest working Turkish  
baths, founded by Sultan Mah-  
mud I in 1741 and preserved  
in its original form. Ladies  
leave us for their own steam  
bath—a few doors along.  
These are open for the con-  
tinuous works—steam baths, tur-  
ban and a magnificently massaged  
by elderly gnomes who knead  
and pummel and leave with  
bruise, and, as coup de grace,  
jump on back and hop along  
the spine. (Amazingly, no ill-  
after-effects.) Two sous cheer  
from the sidelines like a couple  
down for the cop. A brief lie  
down in the hotel to show off its  
splendours to friends less exqui-  
sitely accommodated elsewhere.  
Dine at a Russian emigre res-  
taurant—excellent borshch; pick  
up fresh halva at late-night  
halva shop; and so to bed.

**Day two:** Give hotel breakfast

a miss, preferring yoghurt and

fresh orange juice in tiny cafe

nearby. Rainy weather, so we  
take Metro down to the  
harbour and catch ferry up the  
Bosphorus; en route admire

two of the Sultan's highlights

of our trip. So much to see: hairs

of the prophet, gobstopping

emeralds, clocks, carriages,

etc., etc., etc.

Europe to Asia—longest

bridge in the world and fourth  
longest in Europe—according to  
a Global tourist. Get off at  
Bebek and stroll along the coast  
to Rumeli Hisarı, the fort which  
Mehmet II built in 1453 for his  
siege of Constantinople. Lunch  
at fish restaurant built on stilts  
over the water's edge: delicious  
selection of hors d'oeuvres fol-  
lowed by local sort of mackerel  
and baklava. Over estimate our  
appetites, but decision to wrap  
surplus sweetmeats in paper  
serviettes and slip in wife's  
handbag not a good idea. Evening  
at jolly Bohemian tavern—  
more fishy hors d'oeuvres, shrimps and stuffed mussels  
washed down by good local  
drunken beer.

**Day Three:** Rich indecipherable  
sightseeing. First, Blue  
Mosque, then Asya Sophia,  
Church of Divine Wisdom for the  
thousand years, then a mosque  
for 500 and now, since 1935, a  
state museum: a desolate place  
like a distinguished old man ending

his days in a public institution  
and housing meagerly

Byzantine mosaics.

The tonic benefit of a holiday  
is out of all proportion to its  
duration. Returning to Eng-

land was not simply a leap

through 1,500 miles but also a  
journey back from the past  
since the pattern of life in old  
Istanbul hardly changes.  
The Government thought it right  
to prohibit the publication of  
material such as those aspects  
of this world's great cities, is  
we decide, every bit as enriching  
as a fortnight's skiing or a month  
in the sun in the Caribbean.  
The Deputy Governor will be  
pleased to learn that the  
Bill allows him to do with the  
right to offend the generality of  
people with a display of indecent  
material which they had no desire  
to see.

### Hilary Rubinstein

The author is the Editor of the  
Good Hotel Guide. The 1980  
edition will be published by the  
Consumers' Association in the  
spring. He would be glad to  
hear from readers who have  
had any exceptionally agree-  
able hotel experience in the  
past year, either in Britain or  
abroad. Contributions, Nominations,  
in as much detail as possible,  
should be sent to the Good  
Hotel Guide, 61 Clarendon  
Road, London W1.

Lord Soames, Lord President of the  
Council and leader of the  
House of Lords, is to be Governor  
of Rhodesia during the  
interim period until the new  
Government is elected. Sir Ian  
Gilmour, Lord Privy Seal, said  
yesterday: "Lord Soames, in  
addition, will go to Salisbury next  
week."

Sir Ian Gilmour went on: "In  
view of the exacting nature of  
the task which the Governor will  
have to fulfil during this period,  
the Government thought it right  
to prohibit the publication of  
material such as those aspects  
of this world's great cities, is  
we decide, every bit as enriching  
as a fortnight's skiing or a month  
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to see."

**Lord Soames's authority is re-  
affirmed**

Mr Peter Shore, Chief Opposi-  
tion spokesman on Home and Com-  
munity Affairs (Tower Hamlets,  
Stepney and Poplar, Lab)—"A task of unique difficulty  
awaits the Governor in Salisbury  
because his arrival there marks  
the beginning of legality after 15  
years of rebellion."

I assume that the Government  
is confident that the agreed

ceasefire will be announced

before the Governor departs  
and that the Government has made  
at least informal soundings of  
the interested parties before an-  
nouncing the appointment.

I assume that the Governor's  
powers will be limited to those  
of a cabinet member of the Cabinet  
with wide ministerial experience.

The Deputy Governor will be  
Sir Antony Duff, Deputy to the  
Permanent Under-Secretary of State  
at the Foreign and Com-  
munity Affairs Office.

The Government is thus demon-  
strating the great importance  
that it attaches to the fulfillment  
of its responsibility to provide  
for the continuation of which trial  
and fair election can help as the  
means of bringing Rhodesia to  
independence on the basis of  
genuine majority rule. When the  
Governor arrives in Salisbury and  
his authority is accepted, Rhodesia  
will return to law.

**Lord Soames's authority is re-  
affirmed**

Mr Andrew Faulds (Warley, East  
Lab)—"Will be got Lord Soames  
to comprehend the understand-  
able reluctance of the Patriotic  
Front, whose struggle has brought  
about the abandonment of Smith's  
racist regime, to put them in  
charge of the armed forces and the  
army and the forces and particularly  
the activities of white mercenaries like the Selous  
Scouts and other such obscene  
outfits?"

**Sir Ian Gilmour**

The drift of those remarks is better discussed  
at the Lancaster House meetings

of the prime minister and the Governor  
than here.

Mr Shore—Can he assure us there  
will be a declaration of a cease-  
fire before the Governor departs  
for Salisbury?

**Sir Ian Gilmour**

I cannot give

the exact procedure or when

it will depend on the circumstances.

Mr Shore—Sanctions will be

lifted on the return to legality

which is when the Governor re-  
turns to Salisbury.

Mr Alan Alexander (York, Lab)—When  
will the Governor go—when the  
formal declaration is signed

at Lancaster House, or will it be

only when the hostilities have

ceased and the Patriotic Front  
forces have assembled in their  
particular locations and the Zim-  
babwe forces have withdrawn to  
barracks?

**Sir Ian Gilmour**

It will be

before the Governor will be supervising that process.

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about the abandonment of Smith's  
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Fred Emery

# The great self-confidence trick

Before this extraordinarily buoyant week for the Government got under way, one of the more robust spirits in the Cabinet confided a belief that smacked of wishful thinking. The country, especially the skilled workers, he said, was catching the mood of Margaret Thatcher's self-confidence.

They understood her standing up to the EEC, better than did the sophisticates; they were getting the message on pay, the belief going home that the medicine had to be taken if there was any chance for national survival. Above all people were responding, he argued, to her holding the country's head up again.

Well, all this was before the miners' ballot and the Rhodesia settlement buttressed that Minister's thesis and put firmly to the back of most minds nagging questions over what, in fact, Mrs Thatcher had achieved by affronting her EEC colleagues; before, too, the initial foreboding at Mr Charles Haughey as Taoiseach.

The evidence of the country's response finds the jury still out; some may retort that all they see is foolhardiness and risk taking. But there can be no doubt the evidence of rising ministerial self-confidence.

At the top, the Prime Minister at times has difficulty containing her enthusiasm for the crusade she believes she is leading. Take the impulsive speech she made last week before the sceptical audience of

parliamentary and political reporters. She had been apparently prevailed upon to lay aside her brief and tell us what made her tick. With refreshing lack of guile she said it was the certainty that Britain was the biggest bastion of liberty around (well, just short of the United States) and all our difficulties were subordinated to ensuring that democracy flourishes. In a little-noted passage she waxed bullish on the economy. "I would not necessarily accept that we are going to have much lower growth next year," she said, defying the Treasury forecast of a recession next year.

She was going to get herself a much more sceptical forecaster. "Everyone has so had their eyes on this blessed recession that they failed to notice that borrowing is booming, the retail industry is still healthy, and that unemployment is still holding," said she. She wanted to encourage Britain to take steps as if we were in a crisis so that we don't get into a crisis.

It is a difficult psychological exercise, and in some trivial things government cracks show through. Calling the trade union reform legislation the "Employment Bill" was rather pointlessly meant to be a sign of positive thinking. That could jog memories of the unlamented Spiro Agnew shouting "what's good about America" in contrast to the news reporting of the bad. But a vital difference is that whereas the Nixon

men hardly ever had any self-confidence, the Thatcher team, or most of it, is brimming with it.

The Rhodesia negotiation is the prime example. Indeed, ever since the Lucas triumph, if that be the word, boldness, risk taking and decisiveness, or its appearances, have permeated virtually everything. Heaven knows on Rhodesia both Lord Carrington, now and new Lord Soames, deserve all the luck going, and then some. It is an amazing gamble, the more one looks at it; far more ambitious than anything attempted since British troops in the early sixties were sent to East Africa, or in Borneo, to stabilize regimes.

Lord Carrington has, in fact, revived imagination and morale among the talented middle levels of the Foreign Office for this last sport to hold the ring, providing, as the new Zimbabwe Bill expresses it almost with relief, "for the cessation of the responsibility for Southern Rhodesia of the Parliament and Government of the United Kingdom".

If it goes wrong there will be enough irreconcilable Conservative right-wingers to complain, not with Mr Enoch Powell's lament of the suicidal folly of engaging British forces in the morsels, but for scuttling as they see it, the Muambara-Smith Government.

But the wider evidence is that

Carrington theme is being attempted, with variations, in other departments. There is Michael Heseltine, at Environment, clearly issuing the challenge to find out, or try to, how we manage the business of administering ourselves in government. And then to try—despite his admitted past excesses—to revise and refine it.

There is the Cabinet's self-confidence in ceding to Opposition indignation and threats, and deciding to bring the Local Government Bill to the Commons rather than to the Lords. There are the Civil Service cuts, at last, where it can be argued that the Government has had the self-confidence not to wield a wild-swinging axe, but to end up with demands that more be done.

There is the evidence at the meeting of the National Economic Development Council, that Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, conceded to the unions and employers of the responsibility for Southern Rhodesia of the Parliament and Government of the United Kingdom".

And there is even evidence that other Ministers have the self-confidence to put down Lord Carrington when he goes too far. The Foreign Secretary's suggestion in a speech that we might join the European Monetary System (EMS) has been firmly squelched. Exchange rate policy, and the abolition of exchange control, seem to me of the most important and self-confident actions

the Government has taken, means that we are not about to surrender advantages by getting inside the EMS.

That said, there seems to be near unanimity in the Cabinet that Britain's EEC payments crisis must reach a positive, not an obstructive, solution. To embark on a policy of blocking our partners, while initially popular, could also tip over into encouraging the left-wing demand for withdrawal.

So, apparently, we mean to be Gaulists, but not as wreckers, rather as revivers of national faith. It escapes me who said that half the business of governing the modern state is having the nerve to try; but true self-confidence will also mean having the nerve to break free from dogma.

It will mean the nerve to change course without fear of the now fashionable sneering over a "U-turn". That is, despite encouraging signs, yet to be proved.

And so, of course, is the faith index of Conservative voters. Next Thursday's by-election at Herfordshire, South-West, provides a timely test of the solid suburbans. Will the burden of mortgages, the rising household budget and consumer fares make them shift away like the summer visitors of George Washington off a cliff of dismay for a cliff deemed "good" the Cabinet will be claiming it is indeed all catching on.

# An Irish patriot who dislikes IRA's methods

Mr Charles Haughey has succeeded Mr Jack Lynch as head of the Fianna Fail party and therefore automatically becomes Taoiseach or Prime Minister in an Irish Government with some two years to run before a general election becomes mandatory.

Little is known of Mr Haughey outside Ireland, save that he was accused of running guns for the IRA, and dismissed from a previous Lynch government in 1970, and, though arising at least, that he had earlier been responsible for a budget that exempted all creative artists, Irish or foreign, if residents in the Republic, from the payment of income tax on their work.

They underestimated their man. Calmly, quietly, never publicly vindictive, he fought his way back. Nationally popular, trusted by the business community, an obvious patron, Mr Lynch had no choice but to include Mr Haughey when Fianna Fail won the election three years ago.

He was offered and accepted the onerous Ministry of Health and with his usual flair for publicity rather ostentatiously gave up alcohol and tobacco. That ministry is an Irish minefield, strewn with subsidized medicine, contraception and abortion. He threaded his way through it, causing only minimum distress to doctors, clergy and the public.

Without abusing the media, he only appeared very rarely on television—his image grew. Like him, not the IRA came to see that he had won them the first politician of real stature since his father-in-law's time.

There are two main strands in Irish patriotism, the one stretching back through Redmond, Parnell and O'Connell, the other finding its heroes in the Marxist Connolly, the Jacobin Wolfe Tone, and at present incorporated in the highly unpopular IRA and its political wing Sinn Fein.

Mr Haughey belongs essentially in the first tradition and has an acute dislike for the Marxist IRA of today and for its terrorist methods for that aspect of Irish public life that years once described as "weasels fighting in a hole". He is a patriot in that he desires prosperity—in the Jeffersonian meaning of that word—for all Ireland.

He is far too intelligent to imagine that the Ulster Unionists could somehow be coerced into a thirty-six-county Republic. He should know that Unionists succeed in producing a leader of stature themselves that two men could no doubt talk as sensibly (and as privately) as Lemass used to talk to Brookborough.

Like all sensible Irishmen, he is not—as certain persons in England have suggested—anti-British, provided always that the British do not try to dictate to Ireland, for he is quite lacking in the feeling of inferiority that can affect people who once were conquered.

London may not find him as easy to deal with as his predecessors, but they may find such dealings more fruitful. He should at least provide some firm ground amidst the quaking quicksands of Ireland's and Britain's present misery.

Constantine FitzGibbon

## Hobbes still has the answer

Thomas Hobbes, once blamed for causing the Great Fire of London and the Great Plague, died 300 years ago this week. He is buried in the churchyard at Holt Hucklow, near Hardwick in Derbyshire, under a simple stone slab which says: "Thomas Hobbes—a famous and original philosopher, known abroad."

He was certainly famous—and perhaps ought to be regarded still as the greatest political thinker to emerge from Britain. Many of his ideas are still relevant and indeed he would have a great deal to say about the current crisis over the American hostages and even about those starving in Kampuchea and India.

Pay policy, the arms race, avoiding nuclear war, the population explosion—Hobbes's analysis can be applied to solve all these problems according to Professor Howard Warrender, Professor of Political Theory and Institutions at Sheffield University.

The key lies in the notion of "macro-ethics"—a rational awareness of moral rules which benefits both individuals and society. Hobbes's theory is much more than an idea based on the self-interested man, full of aversion, motivated only by a fear of death, and becoming a social animal in a desperate bid to escape anarchy.

Hobbes was born in 1588, as reports of the coming Spanish Armada were filling English with alarm. It gave him, he said afterwards, an intense desire for power because "he and fear had been twins".

Hobbes wrote that social peace requires a sovereign power. If everyone accepts the rules of the sovereign—guaranteed by force—then there will be peace. This contract is what makes up the Leviathan (or to give his book its full title *The Matter, Form and Power of a Commonwealth: Ecclesiastical and Civil*): hundreds of little men giving up certain rights to one large superman. And no one has the right to rebel against Leviathan for gain—if only their personal security is threatened can they abandon the rules and the sovereign and switch allegiance to a new superman.

But in the period leading up to the English Civil War Hobbes won few friends: he annoyed Royalists because he talked about a social contract and not the Divine Right of Kings, and, more importantly, provided little help in the attempts of the Stuarts to

reconcile the now called egoistic psychology, logic, moral philosophy, the use of models in the social sciences, and he translated Homer and Thucydides. Above all was a man who loved controversy. Charles II used to say affectionately of his former tutor: "Here comes the bear to be baited".

**Paul Flather**

\* The first two volumes of the complete works of Thomas Hobbes edited by Professor Warrender are to be published shortly by Clarendon Press.

The superhero of the thirties comes well-packaged. A 16-page booklet with 10 sections from "statistical data" to "addresses" is handed to anyone going to see him with the explanation "he likes people to know a little bit about him before they ask him questions".

The booklet starts with the birth of Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., in New York on December 9, 1909, and follows his career through 75 films, dozens of plays, radio broadcasts, television programmes, records, articles and art exhibitions.

There are 43 items listed under "public service and associations from vice-president of the William Allen White committee to defend America by siding with the allies (1939-1941); through co-chairman (with Mrs Gerald Ford) of the bicentennial committee for sound and light at the Capitol to member of the Guild of St Giles Church in Fleet Street".

Our hero's war career from lieutenants United States Navy to captain United States Navy through arctic convoys to Lord Mountbatten's Combined Ops Commandos take two pages.

If he comes well-packaged, he also comes well dressed. A slim fitting blue double-breasted suit sets off the Combined Ops Commandos tie that unlike any other American he is entitled to wear. The blue eyes seem as bright as when they flashed from the screen of *The Prisoner of Zenda*. The thin mustache is as close-clipped as it was in *Down Patrol*.

Although he is 70 tomorrow, he could probably claim to be the first-ever man to run up and down hills and do acrobatic feats while singing songs for an hour. His favourite sport was tennis and he still played when he was 75.

In 1966 he was cited by name in the Bill against Atheneum and Profaneness and blamed for the two great disasters of 1665 and 1666. A special Commons committee was set up to examine the meaning of Leviathan, and though the Bill was soon dropped, Hobbes never got permission to print works on human conduct in Britain again.

He made major contributions to what is now called egoistic psychology, logic, moral philosophy, the use of models in the social sciences, and he translated Homer and Thucydides. Above all was a man who loved controversy. Charles II used to say affectionately of his former tutor: "Here comes the bear to be baited".

**When the world looks to Park Paddock**

Founded in 1766 and still going strong. That must surely be the motto of Tattersalls, the foremost bloodstock auctioneers in Europe.

Things have come a long way since Mr Richard Tattersall first set up shop at Hyde Park Corner 213 years ago. At that time "Corner" was a rendezvous for all fashionable London. Bounds, dogs and carriages were all sold as well as thoroughbred horses.

The action itself takes place in the sales ring, a circular building with stalls ringing the roof. Apart from the auctioneers' rest room, there are also special enclosures for prospective bidders. In all there is accommodation for 1,200 people, with 500 able to be seated.

It is a colourful scene. Every nationality is represented, and any form of dress is the order of the day. Huskies and tweed caps, fur coats, and mackintoshes; and always the occasional flash of colour from the younger bloodstock agents and their clients who are clad in American gear. At the Houghton sales Henry Cecil took first prize by appearing in a pair of black, orange and green trousers.

Now presided over by the cousins Kennedy and Michael Warrender and their partner, Tattersalls moved to their present headquarters at Park Paddock, Newmarket, in 1966, the year of their double centenary.

Park Paddock is situated in an area of 42 acres. Apart from the sale ring itself, there is a dining room, with a long table reserved for the partners and their guests, bars and 689 boxes. The firm also have the use of 300 extra boxes around the town to accommodate any overflow of the visiting equine population.

The office is a hive of activity which is run by the firm's genial and efficient manager,



Douglas Fairbanks, Jr.: Swinging with feet on the ground.

## With one leap, our hero is back in the risk business

Alistair MacLean epic called

*The Hostage Tower*.

His leading co-star is the Eiffel Tower itself, captured by the mother of the President of the United States and they are jointly held to ransom for \$30m.

As Malcolm Philpot, the suave head of the United Nations anti-crime organization, Mr Fairbanks saves tower, president's mother and \$30m, all at once.

It is he says when asked what

has lured him back to perform for the cinema, "A Red-Royce production". The script, his fellow actors and the setting have all combined to persuade him to spend a few weeks doing the job he first tried in 1923 against the express wish of his father.

And it is when he starts to talk of his father and the real meaning to him of the cinema that the Biggles image, with its medals and degrees and stories of success, begins to

reappear.

For him "the golden age of

the cinema" never existed.

I have never known a time

when people weren't talking

about the good old days, but

there were always frustrations

and usually they amount to

money."

Ian Murray

## Which comes first, patient or trade union?

The recent events at Charing Cross hospital attracted widespread publicity, and the counter-demonstration supported by all the hospital staff, proved so successful that the dispute went to arbitration, the engineers are now back at work and the hospital is being reopened.

The doctors who organized the demonstration have been widely applauded for placing the welfare of the patients above all other considerations and for their subsequent refusal

to take sides in the dispute. This consistency places them in an enviable position.

It is unlikely that any other group will choose to overturn the decision of the hospital and eliminate the strike.

However, the growth of bureaucracy within the NHS is an essentially benign process.

Unhappily, the same cannot be said of the growth of trade union power and the emergence of restrictive practices within the health service.

to the laboratories and even parity patients to theatre.

It is not their job, but patient welfare dictates their actions.

It is a curious anomaly that the NHS, established to provide services for everyone, regardless of class, should now be a target for militant activity.

If trade unionists are not available, the nurses serve the patients and even keep the wards clean.

If no porter is available, doctors take urgent specimens

of patients who act un-

officially.

The recent debacle at Charing Cross was caused, not so much by failure of management, but by the refusal of union members to heed their own national executive. Theonus is on both sides to put their affairs in order.

Dr Robin

Russell Jones

The author is a Senior Registrar at Charing Cross (Fulham) in London.

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Residence Vaugrenier offers lavish time owned pieds-à-terre for up to 4.5 persons at Cagnes-sur-Mer, only 7 miles from Nice Airport, and within easy reach of Andon, Valberg and Isola 2000 ski slopes. Magnificent views over the Baie des Anges and tranquil Parc de Vaugrenier.

Ownership including swimming pool, tennis court, clubhouse, gardens and garage parking in multiples of one week per year, reduces your investment to between £1500 and £4,300 according to season, for each week in perpetuity. Apartment for 6-8 persons also available.

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## ONLY A SECONDARY BILL

The British economy is in some ways particularly favoured. We have North Sea oil; we have large reserves of coal; our energy position is much better than that of our main industrial competitors. We have a financial centre with large earnings, disproportionate to the size and strength of our economy. We have a small but highly efficient agriculture. If we did not have these advantages our situation would indeed be desperate because we have exceptionally low productivity in manufacturing industry.

According to the Dresdner Bank figures, if the index of productivity is taken to be 100 in West Germany, it is 128 in the United States, 78 in France and only 52 in Britain. These figures confirm the results of other studies which have shown that German productivity is about twice the British. As manufacturing is essential to the creation of wealth in Britain, this disparity in productivity is not only dangerous in the present but very dangerous for the future.

There are arguments about the proportion of blame that should be attributed to the various influences on productivity. Social attitudes play a part in determining productivity, and so does the quality of management. But the obvious contrast between Britain and the high productivity countries is in trade unions and trade union law. Germany has strong trade unions subject to a code of law. The United States has much weaker trade unions also subject to a code of law. Britain has powerful but badly structured trade unions deliberately given the most extensive possible legal immunities by the Labour Government in 1974 and 1975. Britain has allowed the free market in labour to be destroyed.

The new Conservative Employment Bill should be scrutinized in the light of this critical failure of productivity. So far as the trade union-monopoly power

accounts for our low productivity, will this Bill do anything, or anything sufficient, to put that right?

The Bill's proposals are of various kinds. The proposal to finance secret ballots is purely optional; there is nothing to stop unions having secret ballots now. This proposal is sensible, but it is not an important change, nor would it significantly affect productivity.

The provision for codes of practice is also to be supported, depending of course upon the terms of the codes themselves, but is similarly remote from the main issue. In so far as these codes of practice improve industrial relations they will open the way to an improvement in productivity, but the effect is likely to be very modest.

The Government's approach to the closed shop is to accept the right to have closed shops in principle, but to give improved remedies to those who are excluded from membership of a relevant trade union or are dismissed because of a closed shop. Here again the additional compensation is obviously desirable in itself. So far as the Government are moving at all they are moving in the right direction, but not at all far.

The closed shop is one of the major inhibitions to raising productivity. Where there is a closed shop, the people working in that shop can normally control the technology that is employed and the conditions under which that technology is worked. Closed shops have often been built around technologies which are now obsolete, or are becoming obsolete; a closed shop can easily become a protection for obsolete equipment and methods.

The Government want to compensate some people for the injury that is done them in not being allowed to join a labour monopoly, but that does not mean to the injury of being forced to pay monopoly prices for the product of closed shop labour. Nor does

Iranian sovereignty by the United States, he said, could not be invoked to justify Muslims behaving in the same way. "By taking hostages you have weakened the justice of our cause and helped smother our voice in the United States and throughout the planet." These statements from the leading theoretician of the "Islamic Revolution" apparently made a considerable impression on the students, at least at the time. Mr Bani-Sadr remains popular with any rate a part of the Tehran crowd, and is considered a possible candidate for the presidency of the republic.

Another often-mentioned candidate for that office is Mr Mehdi Bazargan, whose opposition to the seizure of the hostages was the immediate cause of his fall as prime minister a month ago. He too remains popular with certain sections of the population, particularly the bazaar, and appears to be regaining influence as he has been representing the Revolutionary Council in discussion with Ayatollah Sharif-Madar, and has now been sent as mediator to Tabriz. Generally speaking the flop of last weekend's referendum and its aftermath seem to have weakened Imam Khomeini's position and to have demonstrated the dangers of some of his extremist policies. His response has been retreat and to listen more carefully to the voices around him urging moderation.

It is probable that this extends also to the hostages issue, since the new foreign minister, Mr Ghohrehzadeh, is now talking of releasing "those of whom it can be proved that they were not spying", and says that the Imam has approved this. Of course, as Mr Bani-Sadr has said, even if some of them are spies Iran has no right to punish them other than by expelling them from the country. But Mr Ghohrehzadeh's statement does suggest that things are getting better rather than worse. For the time being America's best policy must be to watch the situation develop and hope for the best.

The patience which America has shown in this situation does not remain. The temptation to take drastic but politically counterproductive action has been resisted, principally because it is understood that such action would be far more likely to harm than help the hostages. The danger is that once the ordeal ends—certainly if it ends in the deaths of some or all of the remaining hostages, but quite possibly even if it ends in their release—the temptation will become irresistible. But the political arguments against any act of vengeance will remain as strong as before. America would forfeit at a stroke most of the sympathy she now enjoys, especially in the Muslim and other underdeveloped countries. Certainly Iran, and probably several of her neighbours, would look instinctively to the Soviet Union for support.

Even if the temptation is resisted in the immediate aftermath of this crisis, it may, as a result of what has happened in Iran, present itself more plausibly to Americans later on and in a different context. There is all too little understanding in the West, and in the United States, particularly, of the real

## THE WORLD HOLDS ITS BREATH

It will be five weeks tomorrow since the American embassy in Tehran was seized. The ordeal of the hostages during that time hardly bears thinking about. But the ordeal for the United States as a nation has also been considerable. The treatment of the hostages, and the lack of any quick or certain way to rescue them other than by an act of immoral and dangerous appearance which most Americans have rightly ruled out, have been a painful wound to American national pride. The Iranians responsible know this and glory in it, regarding it as little more than token retribution for repeated blows to their own national pride from various great powers over the past century-and-a-half, and particularly from the United States in the last thirty years. That does not make it any easier for Americans to bear.

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## Fees to overseas students

From the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sussex

Sir, Most of the reasons why it is to this country's advantage to have substantial numbers of overseas students in our higher educational system are well known: to epitomize the openness of our society; to bring to our own students valuable trans-cultural and trans-social experiences; to aid (misguidedly) our research; to engender goodwill, influence and economic return to discharge obligations to the Third World. I should like, however, to add in this list another reason that is of great importance but that has been largely overlooked in the current debate: the contribution that overseas students make to our own ways of thought.

Life consists in the solution of problems: human, physical, aesthetic, religious, economic, mathematical, legal, moral, political, administrative, literary, scientific, philosophical... None of these problems is separable from the

others; surprising connexions abound as in the current arguments as to whether mathematics, for example, waiting to be discovered, or whether it is in an essential sense a construct of the mind. Different cultures and peoples see the same problem and, more importantly, the relationships between problems, in different ways and have correspondingly different ways of finding the solution, directly or by heuristic analogy. Even though there may be a single right answer there is never only one right way to find it; knitters in France point their needles inwards and seem to be in hazard of dismembering themselves; whereas knitters in this country point their needles outwards and make as though to fend off attacks upon their persons but the resultant scarves are the same. For some problems the one approach, the one way of thought such as practised in country A is best while for another problem it is the approach taught in country B that is superior. How lucky we are to be able through our teaching of

in the concomitant being taught by the students of all nations to benefit so much and so cheaply from their different perceptions of academic problems and their different approaches, logical, mystical, rational and classical, to their solution.

In my own teaching and research over 35 years I and, in turn, my students have benefited immeasurably, in the quite narrow academic sense, from finding how people from different countries think and feel their way towards the same goal, from learning their methods and following their minds. This would be echoed by my colleagues in their thousands.

Our overseas students make a real and integral contribution to our academic society; let not our economic impoverishment lead to a bankruptcy of our understanding. Yours faithfully,

DENYS WHITKINSON,

The Vice-Chancellor,

University of Sussex,

Falmer, Brighton.

## Threat to unity of Labour

From Mr Bryan Magee, MP for Walsall Forest, Leyton (Labour)

Sir, The great threat to the unity of the Labour Party comes from those persons on its left wing who are demonstrating a complete failure to understand the nature of the party of which they form so untypical a section.

Two clauses deal with the problem of secondary picketing and compulsion to join unions by secondary blacking. Both are to be inhibited by removing the legal immunities of unions when they go outside the bounds of the Bill. This legal shift is of great potential importance. Wide immunities from civil actions have given British trade unions their unique and totally unjustified legal monopoly. This legal monopoly has contributed powerfully to keeping down British productivity.

The provision for codes of practice is also to be supported, depending of course upon the terms of the codes themselves, but is similarly remote from the main issue. In so far as these codes of practice improve industrial relations they will open the way to an improvement in productivity, but the effect is likely to be very modest.

It is right to take away this legal protection for secondary picketing and secondary blacking, which are extra coercive powers in the hands of the unions—powers which can be exerted against people who have no connexion with the original dispute and perhaps no connexion with the unions involved. The Government are taking an important legal step to deal with unpleasant abuses, but that does not mean that these abuses are a central part of the armoury of the unions. They are weapons which only come into play on special occasions.

Secondary picketing and secondary blacking have only a small part in determining the ability of unions to impose the continuation of obsolete production methods, unreasonable demarcations and exaggerated manning levels on British industry. Most of our industry suffers from all three of these evils. The whole Bill will make hardly any difference in practice to the power of management to put them right. That would require a different approach both to the closed shop—which should be seen as intrinsically uneconomic as well as illiberal—and to the conditions of legal immunity in industrial disputes. Judged as it should be, by its potential contribution to raising productivity, this Bill does little, indeed very little, to help.

## Dr Mervyn Stockwood

From the Reverend Nicolas Stacey

Sir, The punch-line in your article (November 27) on the Bishop of Southwark's retirement quotes a former clergyman as saying that he is "a High-Church Tory who finds compensation for his bachelor life in the glamour of episcopal office". This is, in fact, a question from my book, *"Who Cares?"* Taken out of context it is misleading and has angered some clergy in this diocese. I hope the full paragraph of what I said gives a fair picture of a distinguished man:

"There are few people in the Church of England for whom I feel more sympathy than Dr Stockwood. He has always been accident-prone, has worn his faults on his sleeve and has laid himself open to criticism. He is obviously and painfully torn between heart and head. Intellectually he is a Radical Socialist dedicated to the building of a fairer society with a lively concern for the underprivileged. Emotionally he is a High church Tory who finds compensation for his bachelor life in the glamour of episcopal office."

This is, in fact, a question from my book, *"Who Cares?"* Taken out of context it is misleading and has angered some clergy in this diocese. I hope the full paragraph of what I said gives a fair picture of a distinguished man:

Furthermore, it was another Dominican, Thomas Aquinas, who, perhaps more than any other single theologian, has enriched the stock of the Roman Catholic Church's orthodoxy doctrine.

Surely it is right that a great

Church should have a firm work of reaching, carefully constructed over centuries from the interpretations of Scripture distilled by

and theological cross-examination.

In particular, at the start, they were to use these methods against the Albigensian heretics of southern France, but in time the Dominicans made all heresies their special concern and thus became the principal interrogators of the Inquisition or Holy Office, now reconstituted as the Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, the body putting on trial the views of Father Stockwood.

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## COURT CIRCULAR

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE**  
December 7: The Lord Somers was received in audience by The Queen this morning and kissed hands upon his appointment as Governor of Southern Rhodesia.

Lady Somers had the honour of being received by Her Majesty, His Excellency the Hon Sir Gordon Freshfield and Lady Freshfield were received in audience by The Queen and took leave upon His Excellency relinquishing his appointment as High Commissioner for Australia in London.

Mr Justice Dillon had the honour of being received by Her Majesty upon his appointment as a Justice of the High Court of Justice when The Queen conferred upon him the honour of Knighthood.

Mrs Justice Butler-Sloss had the honour of being received by Her Majesty upon her appointment as a Justice of the High Court of Justice when The Queen invested her with the insignia of a Dame Commander of the Civil Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

Major-General Royal Air Force Sir Neil Cameron had an audience of Her Majesty upon relinquishing his appointment as Chief of the Defence Staff.

The Queen was represented by the Lord Mawbray and Stourton (Lord in Waiting) at the Memorial Service for Sir Evelyn Bone (formerly Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Northern Rhodesia) which was held at the Church of St Martin-in-the-Fields, this morning.

**CLARENCE HOUSE**  
December 7: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother today hosted the Commonwealth Metropolitan Police (Sir David McNeel) and the members of the Assistant Commissioners' Mess with her presence at luncheon in New Scotland Yard.

The Hon Mrs John Mulholland and Sir Maran Gilliat were in attendance.

**KENSINGTON PALACE**  
December 7: The Duke of Gloucester presented the Queen's Award for Industrial Architecture Award 1979 or a luncheon at the Goldsmiths' Hall, Foster Lane, London.

Lieutenant-Colonel Simon Bland was in attendance.

The Duke of Gloucester has become Patron of the British Life Assurance Trust for Health Education.

### Birthdays today

The Earl of Acrester, 72; Lord Dilcock, 72; Mr Maurice Green, 73; Mr James Galway, 40; Sir Arthur Rylill, 72; Sir John Storar, 88.

**TOMORROW** Lord Butler of Saffron Walden, 72; Miss Judy Dench, 45; Miss Hermoine Gingold, 82; Mr Benny Green, 52; Sir Stewart Macfie, 74; Sir Godfrey Nicholson, 78; Dame Elisabeth Schwarzkopf, 64; Sir Peter Snellings, 66; Sir Maurice Yonge, 80.

### Today's engagements

**Exhibitions:** Buttons & Bows: The story of the English Costume, 1066-1939. Llewelyn Museum, Cardiff, Kent. Royal 10.5x "Teacups". Oil painting exhibition opened by Earl of Lansborough, Methodist Church Hall, Town Hall Square, Leicester, 10.

Hollywood art and design of an American cinema, 1945-60. A Museum, Cromwell Road, 10. 5.30.

The Human Tradition in European Photography. Arnolfini Gallery, Narrow Quay, Bristol. Concerts: Carol House, Christmas Eve, 7pm. St George's Hall, Liverpool, 7pm. Kensington Gore, 3 and 7.30; Régine Crispin, soprano, and Geoffrey Purcell, piano, play Saté, Gurdji, Lister, Wigmore Hall, 7.30.

Walks: A Dickens Christmas Walk, an Embankment underground station, 2. Memorial service: Bishop Kenneth Lampugh, Winchester Cathedral, 12.30.

### TOMORROW

The Duke of Edinburgh as president attends meetings of Bureau of International Warlord, and the ordinary General Assembly, Düsseldorf.

The Prince of Wales as president attends the Friends of Covent Garden Christmas Party, Royal Opera House, 7.30.

**Exhibitions:** John Flaxman, RA, Mythology and Industry, Royal Academy, 10-14 (last day). The Shoe Show, ICA, Galleria, Nash Point, Cardiff, 10am-7pm. 12-16 Art Treasures Exhibition, Somerset House, Strand, 12-16 (last day).

Work of 25 notable artists on show for 25 days to mark 25 days of the Royal College of Art's Piccadilly College, College Road, 2.5 (last day).

Massed bands spectacular, Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, 7.30pm.

Walks: A Journey through Roman Britain, a walk from Mill Underground station, 11; Discovering London-Bloomsbury, meet Holborn Underground station, 2.

# Thomas Merton: the monk as social critic and prophet

Thomas Merton, the Trappist monk from the Abbey of Gethsemani in Kentucky, who died on December 10, 1968, continues to be a major influence on the spirituality of Christian and non-Christian in the West. Merton embodied in himself the spiritual currents and crises of his day. In the person of this enclosed monk who was to become a leading social prophet, several worlds met: the world of the renewed Roman Church, the world of Eastern Christianity with its rich mystical tradition, the world of the peace movement and the non-violent philosophy, the world of the American "counter-culture", the world of Zen and of the Eastern spiritual traditions, and the world of radical protest in the America of the 1960s. Merton's writings convey something of the profundity of his experience of these movements and crises, an experience which, paradoxically, was gained

through monastic solitude. For Merton held that solitude was a vital prerequisite for the awakening of the social conscience. Liberation always begins on the plot of earth on which one stands: in solitude, in the depths of a man's essential aloneness, lie the spiritual resources for resistance to injustice and oppression.

Merton saw the spiritual life as the life of the whole person, rejecting the seductions of "bogus interiority" and of those who, in David Berri-gan's words, "mediate in a way of becoming neutral". Merton held that Christian faith, as expressed in Christian prayer, was a principle of questioning and struggle before it became one of certainty and peace. The Christian mind, he wrote, "is a mind that risks intolerable purifications". The desert as the place of purification and struggle was a constant theme of his writings. True solitude is a

continual bending over the abyss, while a solitude from which God does not seem to be absent dangerously threatens his continued presence.

So in Merton's philosophy of solitude contemplation was essentially linked to social critique. Prayer is a consciousness of man's union with God, an awareness of one's inner self, involving a stripping away of illusion. Prayer thus sets us free from self and from illusion, and therefore from individualism which Merton believed had dominated Western theology and politics for hundreds of years. In confronting this false ego, we begin the process of recovery of the Divine Image in man.

Merton's spirituality was rooted in the view of salvation as involving the "taking of manhood into God" which the Eastern fathers have no hesitation in calling *deification*. "God", wrote St Gregory of Ninna, "has made us not simply spectators of the power of God but also participants in his very nature." It is perhaps ironical that Merton died on the same day as the German theologian Karl Barth to whom such an idea would have been unthinkable. But Barth certainly agreed with Merton against much of the present prevailing secularized theology in Britain and the United States—their theology could only occur within the framework of prayer. Merton saw prayer as deep confrontation with the falsehood in modern man and society, and therefore the "unmasking of illusion" was an essential feature of the spiritual life.

Merton saw the monk as critic in the deepest sense, a social critic and prophet. The question for monasticism was not survival but prophecy. His view of the monk as critic comes out most clearly in his *Contemplative Prayer* (1973).

"and in the paper he gave on the day he died on 'Marxism and Monastic Perspectives'. In both these writings he sees the monk as someone whose vocation is one of searching and questioning, one who abandons the world only in order to listen more intently to the deepest and most neglected voices of the world. The monk dedicates himself to liberation from the world in order to liberate the world. But Merton goes further than this, for what is true of the monk is true in some sense of every Christian. There can be no true social critique, no true political radicalism, which is devoid of inner spiritual struggle. And it was this which was so great an influence on many of the radicals of the 1960s."

**Kenneth Leech**  
Rector of St Matthew's, Bethnal Green

## OBITUARY SIR JOHN FORSDYKE Director of British Museum in war time

Sir John Forsdyke KCB, who was Director of the British Museum for a critical period of 14 years, which included the Second World War, has died aged 96.

Edgar John Forsdyke was born in 1883, and was educated at Christ's Hospital, Oxford, of which he was a classical scholar. He was early attracted to Greek archaeology, and in 1908 he became an assistant in the Department of Greek and Roman Antiquities at the British Museum.

In 1932 he was made keeper of his department, and from 1936 to 1950 he was Director and Principal Librarian of the Museum in succession to Sir George Hill. He was knighted in 1937. He was an Honorary Fellow of his Oxford college.

Forsdyke's chief work as an archaeologist was done in the new field of prehistoric Aegean archaeology, which had been opened up by Arthur Evans's discovery in Crete. He became one of Evans's most faithful and valued friends, and contributed not a little in various ways to the successful conclusion of the book in which Evans summed up the results of his long researches, *The Palace of Minos*.

Forsdyke's own writings were not very numerous, but were always of fine quality. His Catalogue of the Prehistoric Aegean Pottery in the British Museum was a most learned and useful piece of work; and his British Academy lecture on *Minor Art*, quiet and tasteful, is the best brief account of the subject. The first part of an important comprehensive study *Greece before Homer*, appeared in 1956.

Forsdyke was honorary secretary of the Society for the Promotion of Hellenic Studies; and edited its journal for many years. He also was active in the management of the British Schools of Archaeology in Athens, Rome and Iraq.

It was not long after Forsdyke became Director that he had to think seriously about the safeguarding of the British Museum and its collections in the event of the outbreak of war. No greater or more depressing responsibility can fall upon those in charge of libraries, museums, and galleries than the systematic planning of evacuation and closure, and also of the maintenance of certain services in wartime. In such planning, Forsdyke excelled, and the clarity and courage of his decisions gave his staff full confidence and kindly eyes.

He was twice married. His second marriage was during the war to Des Gombrich, and there were two daughters.

### DR JOHN FORD

Dr John Ford, formerly Director of the East African Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Research, died on December 1. He was 69.

He was at New College, Oxford, from 1929 to 1932, taking his DSc. In 1932 he was member of the Oxford University expedition to Sarawak.

Forsdyke had a compact personality and an independent mind. He was always cool and collected, and his good sense was unfailing. Unaffected himself, he was not tolerant of pretentiousness in others, but apart from that, he viewed human nature with an amused and kindly eye.

He was twice married. His second marriage was during the war to Des Gombrich, and there were two daughters.

Over the years Ford began to question the efficacy of the various policies for tsetse control. His book, *The Role of the Tsetse Fly Problem*, published in 1971, truly lived up to its title. He delighted in the entirely appropriate word "seminal" used by others to describe it.

Not only is the book the condensation of years of thought and experience in an era which is now past; it is also a lesson for the future. Ford appreciated more than anyone the sense and sensibilities of the African peasant, and his ability to co-exist with tropical ecosystems in a manner which was appreciated only long after it was destroyed by the misguided, but well-meaning colonial authorities.

Ford was a friend to all who were interested in tsetse, and especially to the younger generation of scientists. His stories of those times, his experience of encouragement and advice will all be missed.

### MAJOR GENERAL SIR T. O. THOMPSON

Major-General Sir Trefry Thompson, KCStJ CB, CBM, Eastern Army; Medical Adviser, Supreme Allied Command South East Asia; LAFD Land Forces, South East Asia; DMS, SACSEA; DMS India. He had been promoted Major-General in 1947 and in 1947 he held the honorary local rank of Lieutenant General; during 1947-49 he was British Red Cross Commission for relief work in India and Pakistan.

He retired from the Army in 1948, and on February 2, 1951 was appointed Colonel Commandant of the Royal Army Veterinary Corps in the East African Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Research Organization, Nairobi, Kenya, in 1952, and Toronto, Uganda, in 1956. He was appointed director in 1954.

In 1957 he moved to the Department of Veterinary Services, Salisbury, Rhodesia, and to the Agricultural Research Council of Central Africa in 1964, leaving in 1965 to return to England.

Major-General Sir Percy Tomlinson. In retirement Thompson was from 1951 to 1965 County Director of the British Red Cross Society Devonshire Branch. He awarded the Society's Special Service Cross in 1960.

In his younger days Thompson was a noted sportsman playing hockey for the Oxford Occasional and for Oxford County and also excelling at cricket, rugby football, tennis and squash.

He was appointed CBE 1942, CB in 1946, and created KCStJ 1947; he was appointed an Honorary Physician to the King in 1944.

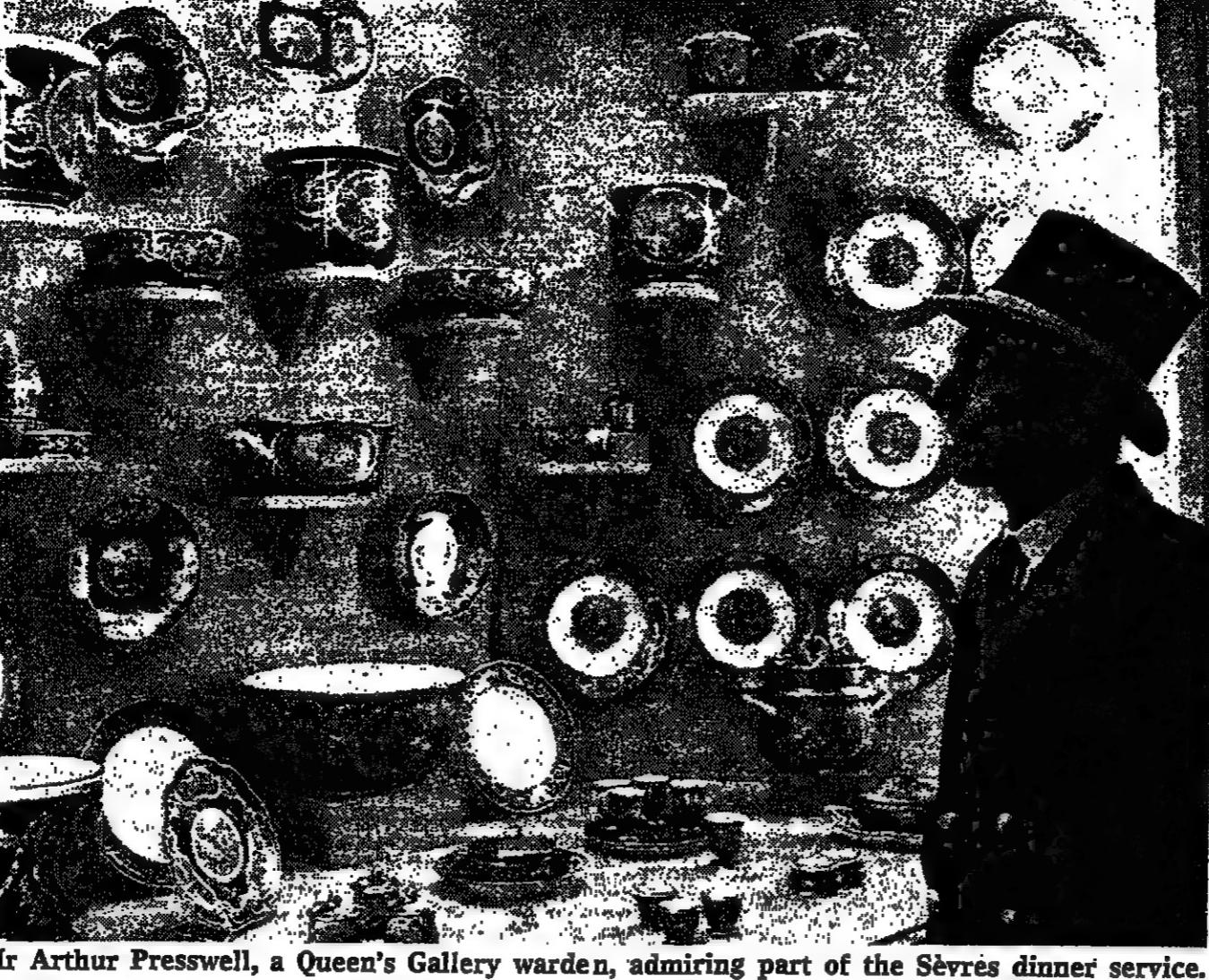
In 1946 he married Mrs Emily, daughter of the late Mr Canon Mead, of North Cerne, Gloucester. There were two sons and two daughters of marriage. His wife died in 1958.

Mr Lanceford Dykes Spicer, DSO, MC, who was Chairman of Spicers Ltd 1950-1959, has died aged 86.

After being educated at Rugby School and Trinity College, Cambridge, he served with great distinction in the First World War. He won the MC in October, 1917, and, as Brigade Major, was awarded a bar to the MC in May, 1918, followed by the DSO in September.

Mr Angus Graham, FRS, Member of the Royal Commission on Ancient Monuments (Scotland), 1960-74, died November 25.

Lady Robb, widow of Douglas Robb, CMG; November 28 as a result of Antarctic disaster. She married in 1935. Her husband died in 1974.



Mr Arthur Presswell, a Queen's Gallery warden, admiring part of the Sevres dinner service.

### Exhibition of rare porcelain at Palace

The Queen's collection of eighteenth-century porcelain from Sevres is the most expensive in the world.

Most of the collection has been kept in the private apartments of Windsor Castle and Buckingham Palace.

The collection was formed by King George IV between 1783 and 1800. Many of the pieces went on display during the French revolution. Two Chinese vases in the exhibition were sold to Marie-Antoinette 200 years ago.

One of the table services was the most expensive to come from Sevres. Commissioned by Louis XVI to a total of £10,000, the Artists and craftsmen had been working for 10 years when production ceased at the time of the king's execution in 1793.

Each plate cost 480 livres—unconvertible in modern currency terms. But that is only two-thirds of the cost of a service, as commissioned by Catherine the Great of Russia in 1777.

Half the total cost was for the painting, showing scenes from mythology and Roman history. In 1783 it was calculated that an artist would take 15 months, working eight to 10 hours a day, to paint a large platter for the service.

The exhibition also includes furniture, paintings, drawings and tapestries from the royal collection, providing an appropriate setting.

### Luncheons

The Speaker gave a luncheon yesterday in Speaker's House in honour of Mr Yitzhak Shamir, Speaker of the Knesset, and Mrs Shamir. The Ambassador of Israel Vice-Admiral Sir Peter Berney, Colonel and Mrs Leslie Hedges and Captain and Mrs Ian Macleod were present.

Other guests included Mr and Mrs Natan Lorch, Lord and Lady Lorch, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Mr and Mrs Michael Fisher, Lord and Lady Fisher, Mr and Mrs Eric Janes, Mr and Mrs Eric Janes, Mr and Mrs Avraham Millo, Miss Shirley Anne and Sir Michael Millo.

**HIM Government**

The Lord Privy Seal was host yesterday at a luncheon held at Carlton Gardens for the visiting Spanish Inter-Parliamentary Union Delegation, headed by Senator Josep Maria de la Torre and Mr Josep M. Valls.

**Reception**

Brach Regiment Officers' Dinner Club held its annual reception for officers and their ladies yesterday evening at the Army and Navy Club. Brigadier F. L. Lindsay, president, presided.

### Service dinners

Exeter Florists. The annual ladies' guest night dinner of the Exeter Florists was held last evening in the Officers' Mess, Commando Training Centre, Royal Marines, Lympstone.

Lieutenant-Colonel Arthur Teddington, Chairman of the Exeter Florists, received the guests, who included Vice-Admiral Sir Peter Berney, Colonel and Mrs Leslie Hedges and Captain and Mrs Ian Macleod.

**Services tomorrow:** Second Sunday in Advent

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL: HC. 10.30am. The service of the Epiphany of Our Lord, with the blessing of the waters, before the Epiphany of Our Lord, at the cooler temperature of 12°C and females at the warmer temperature (18.5°C).

The service was repeated with two of the four main services in the environment where they usually hatch. Dr Bull and Dr Vogt buried eggs on the sandy beach of the Mississippi river, some in shaded sites and others more exposed to the sun. The eggs hatched in the same proportions as in the laboratory, providing further proof that males develop in a cool environment while females develop in a warm environment.

Such clear observation of the hatchlings has excluded the possibility of unequal death of males and females, and confirms that temperature during incubation determines the sex of baby turtles, although it had no effect on soft-shelled turtles. Such a fundamental aspect of their development remains to be seen.

Source: Science, December 7, 1979 (volume 205, page 1186).

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The eggs of one of the species, known as the soft-shelled turtle (*Trionyx spiniferus*), always hatched into roughly equal numbers of males and females regardless of temperature, and the two sexes are programmed genetically to develop into either males or females.

The programme is carried in the chromosomes, and many other animals have distinct sex chromosomes associated with either male or female development. Either one or the other course of development is always followed unless there is something seriously wrong with the programme, causing an animal to develop incompletely or to become a hermaphrodite.

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## SPORT

Cricket

## Australians worried over lack of support

From John Woodcock  
Cricket Correspondent

Melbourne, Dec. 7.

A year ago Ray Steele, as president of the Australian Cricket Association, welcomed the English team to Melbourne with a speech that was forcefully, not so to say embarrassingly, "anti-Packer".

Today, at the corresponding function, he was the convert preaching the gospel of unconviction.

The club itself has been rechristened, the members who were staying down the road to the hotel have moved to Wembley and Munich and returned as heroes.

Throughout this exciting span of Mr Clough's management and Mr Taylor's substantial assistance, the most convincing thing for the Englishmen in the last few weeks of the tour has been the success of comparatively ordinary players when blundered with a few of outstanding ability. Possibly this may be seen as the fundamental art of good management, but over the past few weeks certain individuals have been seen to have indeed looked ordinary.

Should Forest fail to win at Croydon tomorrow, it will be as many former Test cricketers as the eight successive away league matches.

They listened with mixed feelings to Mr Steele, also treasurer of the Australian Cricket Board, making the grandiose statement that "the Australian sentiment with regard to Packer is in the League Cup accommodated their problems.

While there was some merit in holding a lively West Ham team, the standards which he cherished should not be compromised for the sake of money. Mr Bedser was warmly applauded.

West Ham, too, will be without Lloyd and Richards on Sunday. Lloyd because he is still convalescing from the exploratory operation undertaken last week. Richards because of his painful muscle injuries. Of the Australian side that beat West Indies in Sydney last week, Pascas is unfit, Hendrick is now back, but his return will be a full complement to choose from.

He has announced that the same will play Australia tomorrow as beat West Indies in Sydney 10 days ago.

Carter, 20, the England side's one-day games, played in Melbourne, started and finished in daylight. As you can see, the lights on the Melbourne cricket ground although there are places for them. What tends to happen here is that the side winning the toss first and wins the match, having a helpful patch of the ground to run on in the morning session.

On a day when none has been suspended or even fined, the game's administrators have been using with some apprehension to see how many people turn up tomorrow to watch Australia play England. The crowds so far witness have been much below expectations. Is that because there is too much cricket or because it's no novelty any more in watching the West Indians playing in Australia? Or because England were here only a few days ago, or is the public simply wearying for the big one, which is Australia against the "Poms"?

It is difficult to think that the last is true, because once Australia take on England they will not be short of support.

Under pressure, the England party have agreed to dispense with the extra interval tomorrow so that there will be only two sessions of 45 minutes permitting each of the two sides half hours.

In Sydney last week, during the two one-day matches, four "quarters" of an hour, three-quarters each, showed it is not the continuity of the game; yet when the weather is hot, two much longer sessions will put the players under a great strain. After this we'll have to wait in Brisbane one or two of the West Indies told me they never wanted to play in a five-day Test again without a rest day. They, unlike England, have agreed to do the same, so that is what the television people want.

A postscript about Julian Wiener (pronounced "Wiener") who will be opening Australia's imminent tour of England next month by the West Indians. Joe, the skipper, who played club cricket in Melbourne, Wiener had a happy season with the Kent second eleven in 1977. He sees it as his duty to make part of his cricketing education. At the moment, at any rate, he takes a generous view of English cricket — unlike our old friend Mr Steele.

Replacement sought: Somerset has approached the Australian fast bowler Dennis Lillee over a contract for next season. They will be losing their West Indians, Richards and Garner, for most of the summer but will need TCCB to fill the void in an overseas replacement.

The club president, Colin Atkinson, said yesterday: "We have spoken to Lillee and several other leading players in Australia and the results have been encouraging. We hope to have him early in the new year."

Ice hockey

NATIONAL LEAGUE: New York Rangers v Boston Bruins, Philadelphia Flyers v Los Angeles Kings, Quebec Nordiques v St Louis Blues, etc.

## Football

## Time for Clough to work his magic

By Norman Fox  
Football Correspondent

An essential quality is Brian Clough's, and Peter Taylor's achievements at Nottingham Forest is a capacity to revitalise. The club itself has been rejuvenated, and those who were staying down the road to the hotel have moved to Wembley and Munich and returned as heroes.

Throughout this exciting span of Mr Clough's management and Mr Taylor's substantial assistance, the most convincing thing for the Englishmen in the last few weeks of the tour has been the success of comparatively ordinary players when blundered with a few of outstanding ability. Possibly this may be seen as the fundamental art of good management, but over the past few weeks certain individuals have been seen to have indeed looked ordinary.

Should Forest fail to win at Croydon tomorrow, it will be as many former Test cricketers as the eight successive away league matches.

They listened with mixed feelings to Mr Steele, also treasurer of the Australian Cricket Board, making the grandiose statement that "the Australian sentiment with regard to Packer is in the League Cup accommodated their problems.

While there was some merit in holding a lively West Ham team,

inspiring midfield player will not come away from a second division ground to play a apparently second best. To explain their all-round improvement in the last few weeks of the tour has been the success of comparatively ordinary players when blundered with a few of outstanding ability. Possibly this may be seen as the fundamental art of good management, but over the past few weeks certain individuals have been seen to have indeed looked ordinary.

Equally, it was not enough to say that on Tuesday Forest were ineffective in midfield because McGovern, their hard working captain, was absent. Undoubtedly, however, the players involved in the midfield were not up to scratch.

The manager at Forest knew that his players had been eroded from players who have been inspired to feel invincible.

The players, returning to an attacking position, Sinden and Lewis, and Robertson, have not slipped far below their best form, and if they can continue their progress at Manchester United today the talk of a crisis may pass.

Several lesser talented players have suffered a decline. Even Shilton, the rock of the defence, has been beaten by the atmosphere created by a crowd of over 50,000 at Old Trafford.

United parted with Moran in the

centre of their defence but McNamee is named as substitute.

Despite the unrest reported in the boardroom at Aston Villa, the game continues to maintain a respectable position in the league.

They have been unbeaten in 11 consecutive matches, and will be stretched to retain the record against Liverpool at Villa Park.

Although fourth from the top of the first division, Arsenal are only four points ahead of Everton who are sixth from bottom. With Brady and Hollins recovered from injuries, they hope to take two points from Coventry City today and behind them on goal difference, Wolverhampton Wanderers, also in the pack of four clubs with 20 points, should gain a home victory over Bolton Wanderers and they will have a game in hand, although it happens to be against Liverpool.

Mr Taylor feels that Forest's two performances showed an improvement in "character" but a victory is needed to stimulate confidence. They are again without their captain, who has been suspended, and Flanagan is unavailable for Palace because he is still suffering from hamstring trouble. Walsh retains his place.

Leeds United, who beat Crystal Palace, returned to an attacking position, Sinden and Lewis, and Robertson, have not slipped far below their best form, and if they can continue their progress at Manchester United today the talk of a crisis may pass.

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Mr Taylor feels that Forest's two performances showed an improvement in "character" but a victory is needed to stimulate confidence. They are again without their captain, who has been suspended, and Flanagan is unavailable for Palace because he is still suffering from hamstring trouble. Walsh retains his place.

Leeds United, who beat Crystal Palace, returned to an attacking position, Sinden and Lewis, and Robertson, have not slipped far below their best form, and if they can continue their progress at Manchester United today the talk of a crisis may pass.

Several lesser talented players have suffered a decline. Even Shilton, the rock of the defence, has been beaten by the atmosphere created by a crowd of over 50,000 at Old Trafford.

United parted with Moran in the centre of their defence but McNamee is named as substitute.

Despite the unrest reported in the boardroom at Aston Villa, the game continues to maintain a respectable position in the league.

## SPORT

Racing

## The Snipe to swoop for the Cup again

By Michael Phillips

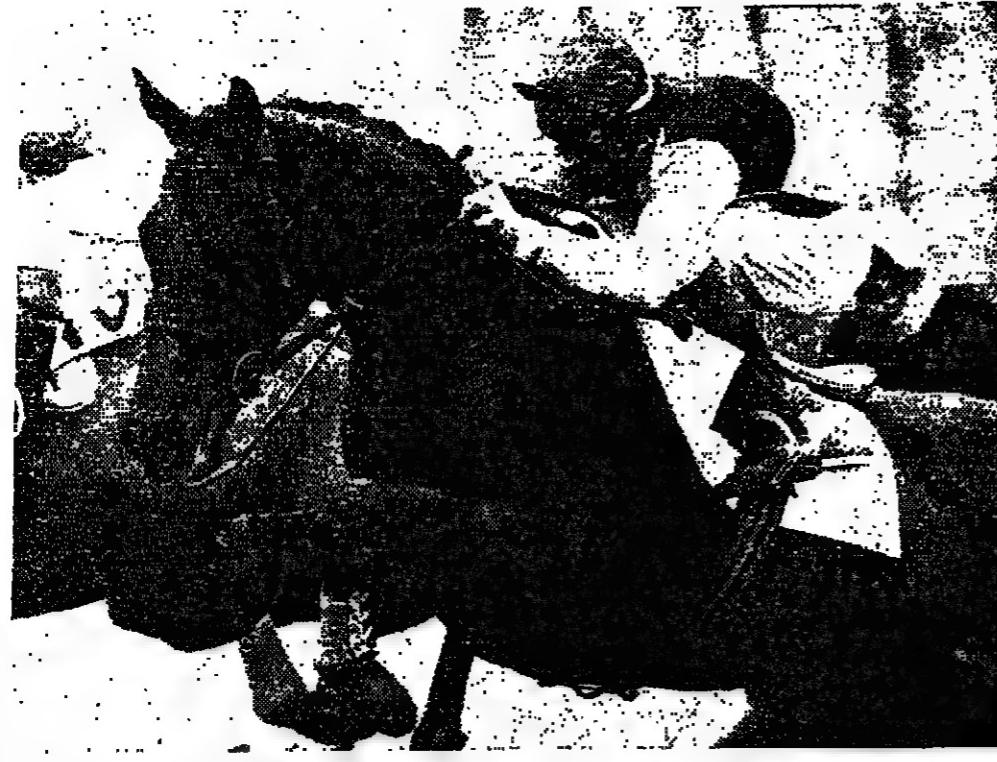
Racing Correspondent

Out of the cauldron at Newmarket and into the picturesque amphitheatre at Cheltenham where the Massey-Ferguson Gold Cup is the most valuable race this afternoon.

Twelve months ago it was won by The Snipe and one should be surprised if he manages to pull off a second triumph. John Webster's nine-year-old ran a magnificent race on his first appearance this season when he finished second in the two-mile Gold Cup run over today's course and distance.

Since then The Snipe has been beaten by Snow Flyer at Newbury. At the time it was rather disappointing, but with hindsight I have a feeling that The Snipe may have been attempting the impossible that day. Although not the soundest of individuals Snow Flyer has always been held in high regard by those closest to him and The Snipe was trying to give him

When he won this race a year ago The Snipe beat Ruler by a length and he has shown that to be a good performance. A length and a half further back in third place that day came Bachelor Hall. If you go strictly on the basis of Bachelor's history he is the best horse in the business. The Snipe now but I am loath to be influenced by that argument having seen Bachelor's Hall jump so deplorably at San-



Bird's Nest : seeking a third victory in Cheltenham's Bula Hurdle.

down Park eight days ago. He looked a shadow of his former self and whether Roller Coaster's confidence has been affected by the heavy fall at Worcester is the question.

Cancello has been beaten by both Roadhead and Farnell Davies in the last two meetings. Indiscreet jockeying ruined what chance he may have had of beating Roadhead at Wolverhampton. Cancello looked back-warped at Ayr when he was beaten

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# THE TIMES

## BUSINESS NEWS

Personal investment and finance, pages 18 and 19

### Stock markets

FT 1,041.5 up 5.5

FT 1,041.5 down 0.5

Sterling

£2.67 down 2.5 cents

Dollar

India 25.5 down 0.2

Gold

520 oz ounce down \$1

3-month money

Bank 16.5 to 16.75

Euro 14.35/15 to 14.75

### IN BRIEF

### Commission on gilt sales to be ended

The Bank of England no longer intends to pay stockbrokers and bankers' commissions on issues of new gilt-edged stock. The move will save about £3m a year.

Banks and brokers stamping their clients' applications for new gilt-edged stocks will be paid £1.125p, £100 of which is carried today did all other major banks, led by Citibank, move into line. Banks' aid loan demand was weak, placing downward pressure on interest rates.

Also, there is political pressure on the banks to lower their rates. Fed sources said: "Some banks have sought to widen their profit margins as short-term money market rates have increased."

There is considerable confidence at the Fed now that maintaining current policies will lead to sounder money supply management and the maintenance of M1, for example, in an annual growth band of 3 to 6 per cent. Yesterday, interest rates fared and higher than was required, and they have been slow to cut them."

Fed officials emphasize that they are determined to press ahead on their current course; even if the recession becomes quite severe, a source close

in the rate for federal funds as an indication of Fed policy.

"Rates are bound to fluctuate as a function of the supply and demand for funds, and we are now just paying attention to our reserves and ensuring that we live within our money supply targets," said one central banker.

Fed governors have been surprised that there has not been even greater volatility of interest rates since they switched money management to prime concern on bank reserve levels on October 6.

They are aware that rate cuts can influence the dollar in the currency market, but one Fed official said: "The dollar strengthened in 1975 as interest rates fell here. We are betting that the currency markets are going to pay more attention to the money supply numbers, rather than changes in interest rates."

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Senior Fed officials complain that the markets still pay too much attention to changes

### United States banks cut lending rates as loan demand weakens

From Frank West, US Economics Correspondent, Washington, DC

America's largest commercial banks today cut their prime lending rates by 1.51 per cent from 15.1 per cent.

Citibank sources said: "The cuts do not reflect any easing in monetary policies. They added that Federal Reserve Board governors are confident that there will not be pressure to sell dollars on the foreign exchange markets as a result."

Chase Manhattan Bank announced its 15.5 per cent prime lending rate, but said today did all other major banks, led by Citibank, move into line. Banks' aid loan demand was weak, placing downward pressure on interest rates.

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### Government to end cash aid for PLA

By Alan Hamilton

The Government has told the deep-burdened Port of London Authority that it can have no more financial aid after commitments promised by Labour have been used up.

The announcement made in a Commons written answer yesterday by Mr Norman Fowler, Minister of Transport, is seen as a last chance for the PLA to achieve its target of becoming profitable by 1985. There had been fears that even the present £10m of state aid, worth about £7m, would be cut off, but the Government had been advised that it is bound to honour the promises of its predecessor.

Mr Fowler, this financial year, was originally committed to £10m, but this site likely to rise to at least £12.5m mainly because of last winter's road haulage strike and the slump in world trade. Mr Fowler said the Government was not giving open-ended assistance to troubled ports.

The PLA will still be able to draw on the £35m Government grants for voluntary severance of surplus labour, although £2m has already been used up. The Government will also continue to underwrite £25m of the PLA's commercial loans and a bank overdraft of up to £5m.

As already agreed, PLA loan repayments of £3m due in 1980 and 1981 are also being postponed.

The Government has turned down appeals for a capital reconstruction of the PLA, which would have involved writing off much of the PLA's Government debt and allowing the PLA to reduce the balance by presenting parcels of surplus

port land-free of charge—for redevelopment.

Yesterday Mr Fowler said: "I have told the PLA there is no more money, and that they must start a course that will get them back to financial viability within this limit. I shall seek an assurance that they expect to achieve this and I shall expect them to alter their policies if they appear to be exceeding their limit."

I know the financial limit we have set is tight. But I also believe it is possible, provided the PLA and the unions work together, to secure the future of the port," he said.

Sir John Guckman, chairman of the PLA welcomed the clear statement of Government intent, and acknowledged that the port had been granted a period of probation to put its house in order.

But he sounded a warning that, because of the tight financial constraints, the port's management would have little room for manoeuvre, and would be at risk from a further downturn in world trade, industrial disengagement in other industries, and other economic factors. Last winter's road haulage strike cost the PLA £1.5m.

Labor costs consume three-quarters of the Port of London's budget. In the five-year plan which aims to lead the port into profit by 1983, the PLA wants 1,100 employees to take voluntary severance to this financial year. At present the authority is 130 dockers and 160 other workers behind schedule.

Financial constraints also shadow the Royal group of docks.

### Productivity must rise Rolls workers told

By Peter Hill Industrial Editor

More than 60,000 workers employed by Rolls-Royce have been given a warning by Sir Kenneth Keith, the chairman, that productivity must be greatly increased if the company's opportunities are not to be thrown away.

In a message to workers Sir Kenneth said the aero-engine group had a full order book and a rapidly rising workload. It was the best chance the company ever had to lift itself out of the rut which characterized much of British industry.

It is probably the biggest opportunity we have ever had, but it is also a major task for management and workforce alike. The opportunity which Rolls-Royce now has could be thrown away if our productivity does not improve dramatically," he said.

Seven years ago the company's turnover was £375m, and last year it increased to £763m. By 1983 the predicted turnover would be about £2,000m.

Sir Kenneth has been at the centre of the row over the relationship between the company and its former "parent"—the National Enterprise Board. Before the resignation of the

National Enterprise Board, Sir Michael Cossiga said the suspension of ENI chairman Signor

Giovanni Mazzanti was a technicality intended to facilitate the chairman of the state oil company ENI's inquiry into oil sales to ENI because of its displeasure over irregularities in an ENI oil supply deal with Saudi Arabia.

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## PERSONAL INVESTMENT AND FINANCE

Building societies

## High returns from insurance schemes

Can I introduce you to an investment offering about 22 per cent gross and as safe as the house you live in? It ought to be, considering that it is part of the building society industry saving repertoire.

Remarkably few investors who are drooling over the 15 per cent gross rates on gilts seem to have heard about building society insurance-linked schemes which at present are offering net-after-tax returns of between 15 and 16 per cent (slightly less for higher rate taxpayers).

Building society insurance-linked schemes are complicated regular savings packages which make use of the tax efficiency of both investment in a building society. In effect, the investor gets two dollops of tax concession on his money.

The investor takes a qualifying life assurance policy—which means that he qualifies for life assurance tax relief of 17½ per cent on his premiums—which is invested in the building society. So for each £10 a month £12.12 is invested (less a little for statutory life assurance cover) invested at the attractive rates now being offered by societies, and subsequently taxed at the special life assurance tax rates.

These technicalities, however, need not concern the investor. All he should remember is that these schemes make the return on these schemes is to cancel the policy after four years, although it is actually written over 10 years. Ten-year policies cancelled after four years are not subject to the "clawback" provisions which relieve the investor of some of

the tax relief he has enjoyed since he took out the policy.

The introduction of the clawback in 1974 did for a while depress the market for building society insurance-linked schemes. When they were originally marketed some years ago, the trick was to cancel the policies at the end of the second year—when the return was greater still.

Today, the yield after two years is still more attractive. This is because the longer the policy runs, the more think space there is for life assurance relief only given on the current year's premium plus over the total sum invested. However, the tax relief clawback up to four years substantially waters down the return.

So it is four years for the best return although even after the full 10 years the return is still a respectable 11.12 per cent net. Life assurance cover ranges between 100 to 60 times (decreasing with age) the monthly premium, which is usually a minimum of £10. Some societies offer lump sum facilities and make regular transfers to the insurance schemes for investors.

The remaining questions are: which societies actually offer these schemes and why do so few of them make it available? For despite the self-evident attractions of building society insurance-linked schemes their total value at the beginning of this year was £1.5 billion.

Three out of the five giant societies do not have linked schemes. The Abbey National did once, and may return to the new year to insurance schemes if it can find a new

angle to them. Nationwide, dismisses the schemes as too complicated. It is also heavily committed to term shares.

The Woolwich Equitable also gives the thumbs down to insurance schemes, leaving only the Halifax and Leeds Permanent to represent the big league.

The market is dominated by the medium-to-large societies, notably Bristol and West, Bradford and Bingley, Lancashire and Middlesbrough, and Country and Midlands. Also a small clutch of smaller societies, including the Coventry Provident, Marsden, Bath, Dudley, Cotswold, Cambridge, North of England and Hemel Hempstead, offer insurance links.

The life assurance element is mainly provided by either Royal Insurance or Eagle Star, although Bristol and West, the market leader, uses the Equitable.

As the building society investment went up only on December 1, not all societies will be able to put out the literature and the newest rate structure for these complicated schemes. The rates will always vary in line with movements in the main building society interest rates.

It will, however, pay to shop around a little. Not only are there differences in rates, but the terms also vary with age groups and some are more generous to those over 50. With house purchase saving in mind, it might be better to take out one scheme with a larger society and another with a smaller one which may pay more now but charge more for a mortgage later.

Margaret Stone

### RETURNS AFTER FOUR YEARS FROM SOME BUILDING SOCIETY INSURANCE-LINKED SCHEMES

	Tax rate							
	30%	40%	60%	75%				
	Gross Net equivalent	Gross Net equivalent	Gross Net equivalent	Gross Net equivalent				
Bristol & West	15.64 31.40 .. 41.65 ..	22.34 21.66 20.80	14.99 14.57 14.10	24.68 24.28 23.57	13.83 13.49 13.14	34.58 33.73 32.85	12.95 12.88 12.40	51.80 50.72 49.60
Bradford & Bingley	17.72 41.55 .. 51.55 ..	22.45 20.87 19.24	15.13 14.12 13.09	25.1 23.53 21.81	13.94 13.14 12.33	34.85 32.85 30.82	13.03 12.39 11.75	52.12 49.56 47.00
Midlands	18.27 13.40 ..	23.24 18.60 ..	15.84 14.34 ..	20.80 14.34 ..	14.34	35.85	13.35	53.40

### Round-up

#### Britannia backs off • disabilities

Britannia Arrow has decided not to go ahead with its counter bid for Dawney Day, the merchant banking partner of the Target unit trust and life assurance group. It has not proved possible, the board says, to find a proposal in the best interests of Britannia shareholders.

Britannia is showing excellent performances with its specialist funds this year and unitholders will possibly be glad that the deal with Target, which could have led to indigestion, is off.

• The Disability Rights Handbook for 1980 is a most useful publication, giving a guide to income benefits and certain aids and services for handicapped people of all ages. There is also section on appeals procedures. It is available from The Disability Alliance, 1 Cambridge Terrace, London, NW1 4JL for £1.

• Carliol Unit Fund Managers

are merging the Carliol Unit Fund with Carliol High Yield Fund. The formal offer documents were published yesterday. The capital value of individual holdings should not change and the issue of units in the High Yield Fund will not constitute a disposal for capital gains tax purposes. Unitholders in the Unit Fund should enjoy a higher income as a result of the merger.

• Permanent health insurance is always a difficult subject where women are concerned. In the past, insurance companies have come under attack for their stand in charging higher premiums for women—who appear to have a higher mortality than men. But NELA, a consortium for National Employers' Life, is offering the same rates to women as men with its new PHI plan called Income Protection Plan.

• Abbey Unit Trust Managers, the unit trust arm of the biggest linked-life assurance company, Abbey Life, is flexing its muscles again. Only last week it came out with an International Bond. This week it is offering the Abbey American Growth Trust, something it believes that any self-respecting unit trust group ought to have in its wardrobe.

• Shareholder perks acquired a new dimension last week when Industrial and General Trust, part of the Touche Remy investment trust management company group, acquired a perk for all its 16,000 shareholders by virtue of the 10% holding in Trusthouse Forte. The shareholders will get a special 10 per cent discount on purchases of Trusthouse Forte leisure gift cheques. It is not much, but it is a beginning.

• The statistic are now being prepared for us by Planned Savings, the monthly magazine devoted to savings and investment through the medium of managed funds.

• There are changes in presentation. Rather than give percentage changes, the tables now

give figures showing how much

£100 is now worth if invested for one year and three years ago, including reinvestment.

• Those who prefer percentages need simply subtract 100 for values less than 100, subtract the figure from 100 to obtain the percentage fall.

MS

Unit trusts

#### A new look and more categories

Today we reintroduce our unit trust tables—in different form. The computer will print out once a month on our behalf and the figures published will appear from now onwards in the first two weeks of each month.

This means that the four most volatile sectors—for the list has been further subdivided—will be completely up to date

when they appear. The General oriented portfolios can, at present take pleasure in the weight of latest

unit holders in the specialist funds will be pleased to see them now subdivided into three categories—Overseas, Financial and Specialist, which is largely commodity and energy funds.

These are all funds where monitoring is important; but unitholders with gold and energy

portfolios can, at present take pleasure in the exercise.

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MS

Unit trusts

Unit trust performance

SPECIALIST A B

Britannia Minerals 199.9 223.8

Britannia City & Gen 150.7 216.6

Britannia Income Fund 150.7 216.6

Scotstar Eng Ind 150.7 186.0

Chieftain Basic Res 151.7

Key Energy Indus 151.7 242.8

Hendra/Gilt/Nat Res 149.8 204.5

New Ctry Eng Res 152.5

Titanic Inv Fund 152.5

Britannia Comty Shre 154.4 219.1

S&P Commdty Share 151.9 194.4

Gartmore Commodity 150.1 199.6

MRC Comty & Gen 125.5

Alpha/Mar-Nat Fund 150.9 199.9

Midland Divers Fund 150.5 199.5

Arbutntr Com Fund 111.0 199.3

Financial A B

Britannia Corp Srvs 122.1 252.5

Early/Lincr Finl 151.2 204.4

Hendrsn Finl & Inv 117.5

Scotstar Finl 150.7 176.3

Target Financial 108.6 185.4

Hendrsn Inv Fund 108.3 183.3

London Wall Fin 108.2 185.1

Kleinwort Bassn Fds 105.2 203.7

Oceanic Financial 105.2 203.7

Britannia Finl Sct 104.0 151.5

James Finl Inv Tst 103.9 176.9

Target Inv Finl 103.8 183.1

Target Inv Finl 103.8 183.1

Twynl/Pref 101.3 159.3

Britannia Inv Finl 100.4 169.7

Schlesinger Pref & Glt 100.4

M&G Finl 100.2 163.3

S&P Financial 99.7 133.3

Cash Pref & Glt 98.6 132.3

Arbutntr Fin & Prp 98.4 167.0

Scotstar Finl 97.1 129.4

Scotstar Gilt 97.1 129.4

Oceanic Finl Trust 96.7 157.0

Key Fixed Interest 96.2 111.5

Arbutntr Prof 95.5 129.5

Schlesinger ITU 93.4 154.9

S&P ITU 93.5 154.9

Target Inv Trust 94.3 176.9

Abbey Inv Trust Fd 90.3 144.3

Practical 98.7 144.3

Overseas A B

Scotstar US Co 133.3 —

A-Hambro Inter 129.8 168.1

Antony Gibbs Amer 129.8 168.1

Bishopgate Inter 127.3 173.9

MEG/Australasia 122.3 149.8

St George Finl 121.8 149.8

James Finl 121.8 149.8

Capitol Amer 121.8 149.8

Cabot Amer/San Cos 121.8 149.8

Target-Scot/Am Eagle 119.9 152.9

Mayflower Inter 96.5 117.3

NPL Sam/Inter 96.0 117.3

M&G/European Grth 118.2 141.4

GT Unicrn Finl 117.2 141.4

GT Unicrn Finl 117.2 141.4

EDITED BY MARGARET STONE

Christmas gifts

## Passports to pleasure . . .

There are thirteen shopping days to Christmas, including today, and only the very keen will have by now completed their shopping list. Yet that last-minute sweat round the shops can be avoided if you are giving a present to somebody with a well-established hobby or interest—in art, opera, or gardening, for instance.

The answer lies in the multiplicity of membership schemes offered by Britain's cultural and scientific bodies.

Suppose, for instance, that your spouse is a keen gardener. For £10 you can buy him or her a year's membership of the Royal Horticultural Society—along with plenty of privileges. These include free entry to the society's shows at Westminster and to the Chelsea Flower Show; free entry with friends to the society's gardens at Wisley, Surrey, and to the society's London library; and a copy of its monthly magazine. The true cash value of these concessions, if all are taken up, is about £25.

This "value" does not include access to the wealth of horticultural expertise and advice given free to members or the fact that entrance to shows is transferable to friends and family. Double membership, for £16, will allow husband and wife entrance to all shows, including the Chelsea Show, where the public admission fee can be as much as £5 each.

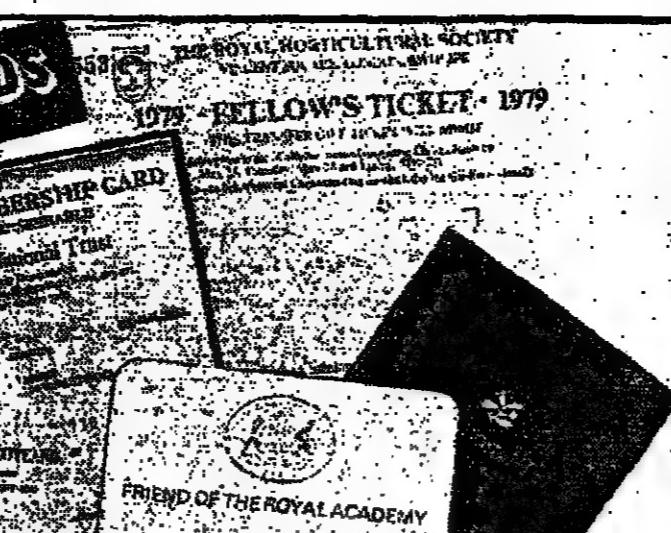
A similar bargain is on offer for those whose interest is art, through the remarkably successful Friends of the Royal Academy, founded three years ago. A £10 annual subscription (£12.50 from January 1) gains free and immediate admission for two to Academy exhibitions, including the Summer One. That means that art lovers need not queue and that they can visit the exhibitions, with friends, as many times as they wish.

In addition, there is a special room available to Friends, described by an Academy spokesman as "an oasis in Piccadilly", where they can sit, read the papers and have coffee.

Other benefits are a reduction on the Academy's catalogues for instance, a price of £4.20 for a season ticket to £2.20 for a season ticket to £2.25. An invitation to several private viewings and access to the unique expertise on paintings that the Academy and its Library can offer. Pensioners, children, teachers, and some other categories, can get all this for a lower fee of £7 a year and the savings on the normal admission cost are remarkable.

Should you have an artist friend, there is the artist subscriber membership at £17.50 a year (£22.50 in 1980) carrying the same privileges and three extra ones. This subscription provides free submission forms (otherwise £7.50 each) for the Summer exhibition, a conservator's help, and advice and entries' materials to a discount.

The National Trust offers an attractive Christmas present for



the individual, or the family at £7 for single membership and £14 for family membership and £14 for family membership and £14 for those under 23.

This card admits members to numerous National Trust properties for nothing, while members of the general public will have to pay from 20p to £1.50 to get in.

Another gift would be to make someone a Friend of Covent Garden, which will cost £12 for a year full membership or £5 for those under 26.

Members can attend special lunch-time lectures and certain dress rehearsals and receive the Friends' magazine four times a year. It will not though, give them any discount on their tickets for a full-scale opera performance, although they will have priority in the ticket queue.

The Tower of London, which is raising its entrance fees next year, also has a membership scheme. And there are other examples—the London Zoo, the various Royal and National Theatres and a remarkably wide

selection of learned institutions.

Even the Government enters into the spirit of it. You can make a gift of a £5 season ticket which allows the recipient free access to the ancient monuments in the care of the Department of the Environment. From June 1st, it will go up to £4.

Wherever one looks there are subscriptions to be given which will surely satisfy the interests of most of your friends. Unlike many of the other Christmas goodies, too, these will last a whole year.

Adresses:

Royal Horticultural Society, Vincent Sq, London SW1P 2PE; Royal Academy, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1; The National Trust, 42 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1; The Royal Opera House, London WC2.

The Department of the Environment, Department E, Room G1, 23 Savile Row, W1X 2BD.

Roger Beard

Through dark broad seas of gloom we sailed this week, and already one or two City mates are crying "land ahoy". Land ahoy, my foot. I say only shoes.

Gilt-edged looks ever more sickly and, without an enduring turn for the better, ordinary shares stand little chance. The war of nerves between Iran and the United States and oil exporters getting out of dollars and into German marks and Swiss francs are dashing hopes of useful interest rate cuts in America.

At home, a growing chorus of commentators is openly sceptical of the Chancellor's chances of controlling inflation through monetary weapons alone. The National Institute of Economic and Social Research is once again fashionable. Its criticisms of Government policy came out at the beginning of the week. More and more stockbrokers agree with them.

This body of City opinion will want to see the Chancellor bring in fiscal controls to support his low-acting monetary ones, before thinking of casting the gilt-edged curse.

Not surprisingly, shares drifted, and the FT index moved from 420.7 to 415.6. If this is a slippery slope, then at least

### Investor's week

## Market drifts down the gentle slope

### MAIN CHANGES OF THE WEEK

Rises

Year's high	Year's low	Company	Change	Comment
1970: 69p	33p	Cawoods	6p to 148p	Good int report
1970: 33p	Johnson & Firth	8p to 41p	Better than expected	
243p	188p	Ladbrooke	4p to 146p	Casino troubles discounted
810p	410p	Macfarlan-Glen	70p to 805p	Bad for Highland Dist
113p	84p	Stockists	4p to 106p	Rhodesia settlement
				Falls
430p	320p	Ferranti	27p to 357p	Bid prospect recedes
458p	311p	GEC	15p to 325p	Int profit drop
280p	136p	MK Electric	26p to 143p	Subsidy on 4-day week
275p	186p	Racial	28p to 185p	Int disappoints
388p	288p	Pilkington	43p to 208p	Hights: poor profit

it is a gentle one. That is what the market apparently thought about this week's company news, with some excuse.

If the worst that is to happen to odds-like GEC and Racial is that they get sore feet (interim profit pause) we can at least with relief: Ladbrooke's loss of

three casino licences hardly blights the rest of the market, except other casino shares.

Wood textile group Illo-

ward Morris reported half-time losses, but it maintained the dividend; Whessoe, now ex bid and with possible legal wrang-

ling over a foreign contract, can

be dismissed as a "special situation" that is actually special; and Pilkington was thought to be stupid rather than anything else for continuing a cash call with poor profits.

Indeed, some of the blame for the FT index drop can be put on Thorn which has joined the index in place of EMI. The share price is still on worries about what an expensive acquisition EMI will probably be.

There is however, one mag. The losses, missed dividends and bankrupcies are still to come. And whatever the Chancellor does in his next Budget businessmen want to know where they stand on deferred tax, a large item in profit and loss accounts.

Recession will prompt many managements to cut down on stocks and plant—but only allowances on stocks and plant allow many companies to treat corporation tax as a joke.

But no prospect is wholly bleak. One small group of investors will probably have their merriest Christmas ever this year. Holders of Rhodesian bonds have seen their stocks rise with delight as the prospect of peace in Zimbabwe Rhodesia genuinely beckoned.

Sections of the automotive parts division also did poorly and the scale of operations has been reduced.

Roger Beard

### Taxation

## Are you better off self-employed?

"If I could arrange to be self-employed, surely I should be much better off than I am as an employee?"

Many of us have the choice but there are borderline cases where it may be possible to adjust the real position in either direction. Then your status is determined by the Inspector of Taxes according to the facts in your particular case.

Much will hinge on the extent that you have what is rather quaintly known as a "master-servant relationship" with the person for whom you provide services. For instance, how much control does the employer have over your working conditions? Are you forbidden to accept work unless you have

its consent? Do you have only one or two sources of earnings?

If the answer to most of these questions is "yes" then the Inland Revenue will probably treat you as an employee, taxable under Schedule E.

However, if you can organize your work in such a way that you could arrange to be either employed or self-employed, what factors should you take into account in making your decision?

An employee is taxed under Schedule E on all the "emoluments", salary and fringe benefits, from his employment.

Most perks such as company cars and free travel for private use are usually worth substantially more to the employee than the equivalent amount of

fully taxable salary. Tax is deducted at source under the Pay As You Earn system (PAYE) by the employer in the year in which the earnings are received.

By contrast, one of the advantages of being self-employed and taxed under Schedule D arises from basing your tax liability this year on your income for last year. If your income increases each year, as it normally would under inflationary conditions, then you should have a comfortable cash-flow advantage over the employee.

Conversely, of course, you could encounter a nasty cash-flow problem if your income drops and you have not provided for the higher tax level based on your previous year's income.

The rules which govern a self-employed person's trade on his first year are generally advantageous and provide several opportunities for tax planning. However, a switch to a current year basis is being contemplated in order to bring self-employed people into line with companies and employees.

A further disadvantage of employment is that any expenses claimed against tax have to be incurred wholly, exclusively and necessarily in the performance of your duties. On the other hand, when a self-employed person is calculating his taxable profits for the year he can deduct expenses which are only wholly and exclusively used for business purposes—the word "necessarily" does not apply.

But there are several rules which favour the employee. For example, if you travel to work in a company car which you use "substantially" for business purposes (normally over 10 per cent of total mileage), your employer could pay the petrol for all your private mileage without increasing your tax liability.

Your pension scheme could also be a decisive factor, particularly if you are nearing retirement. An employer can make very substantial contributions towards a pension scheme, whereas self-employed people are much more restricted in the

## TWO WAYS TO HELP PROTECT YOUR FAMILY

£3 a month can secure £34,000 of life cover. Even if you already have life assurance cover it will probably not be enough to maintain your family's home and standard of living in the event of your death. Send for full details of the M&G Regular Investment Plan and find out about one of the best ways to build a capital sum.

Save £12 a month. Once you have basic life cover you should start making provision to build a capital sum to protect your family in the future. Send for full details of the M&G Guaranteed Protection Plan.

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2. M&G Guaranteed Protection Plan

3. M&G Regular Investment Plan

4. M&G Investment Bonds

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## FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

**Lennons up 17 pc despite overstocking**

By Rosemary Unsworth

Lennons, the Merseyside-based supermarket and off-licenced group, boosted its first half profits in spite of overstocking in anticipation of hefty budget price increases.

Pretax profits rose by 17 per cent to £926,000 and turnover increased by 22 per cent to £30.5m in the half year to September 29, 1979.

Bur wires and spirits profits fell by 10 per cent to £165,000 compared with the same period last year. The group had anticipated an increase in excise duty in the Budget. It estimated that this commercial taxable cost about £60,000 in interest. Profit profit, however, rose by 25 per cent to £761,000 and continues to move forward, according to Mr D. P. Lennon, chairman.

"New capital projects to extend selling space are progressing according to schedule but naturally these take time to build, fit out and open for trading," he said.

The interim dividend rises to 1.05p gross compared with 0.73 last year to reduce the disparity between the interim and final. The board intends to recommend a final dividend of 2.5p gross per share.

**COPPER** (Future) were: Jan. 90, 70c; Feb. 90, 69.5c; Mar. 90, 69.5c; Apr. 90, 69.5c; May 90, 69.5c; June 90, 69.5c; July 90, 70c.

For future closing limit losses of cents from Jan. 10 to July 10, 1980, except for Dec. 1979, 100c to 110c, December 1980, 110c to 120c.

**COCOAS** (Future) traded contracts of 1.40 to 1.20 cents per pound, December 1980, 1.20c to 1.30c.

**COTTON** (Future) were: May 70, 60c; July 70, 60c to 70c; August 70, 60c; October 70, 60c to 70c; December 70, 60c to 70c; February 71, 60c to 70c.

**SOYBEANS** (Future) were: May 70, 18c; June 70, 18c; July 70, 18c; August 70, 18c; September 70, 18c; October 70, 18c; November 70, 18c; December 70, 18c; January 71, 18c; February 71, 18c.

**CHICAGO GRAINS-WHEAT**: Dec. 476-78c; Jan. 500-84c; Feb. 500-84c; March 500-84c; April 500-84c; May 500-84c; June 500-84c; July 500-84c; August 500-84c; September 500-84c; October 500-84c; November 500-84c; December 500-84c; January 500-84c; February 500-84c.

**Foreign exchange**: Sterling, spot 264.92; Jan. 1979, 264.92; Feb. 1979, 264.92; March 1979, 264.92; April 1979, 264.92; May 1979, 264.92; June 1979, 264.92; July 1979, 264.92; August 1979, 264.92; September 1979, 264.92; October 1979, 264.92; November 1979, 264.92; December 1979, 264.92; January 1980, 264.92; February 1980, 264.92; March 1980, 264.92; April 1980, 264.92; May 1980, 264.92; June 1980, 264.92; July 1980, 264.92; August 1980, 264.92; September 1980, 264.92; October 1980, 264.92; November 1980, 264.92; December 1980, 264.92; January 1981, 264.92; February 1981, 264.92; March 1981, 264.92; April 1981, 264.92; May 1981, 264.92; June 1981, 264.92; July 1981, 264.92; August 1981, 264.92; September 1981, 264.92; October 1981, 264.92; November 1981, 264.92; December 1981, 264.92; January 1982, 264.92; February 1982, 264.92; March 1982, 264.92; April 1982, 264.92; May 1982, 264.92; June 1982, 264.92; July 1982, 264.92; August 1982, 264.92; September 1982, 264.92; October 1982, 264.92; 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## Stock Exchange Price Small buyin

**ACCOUNT DAYS:** Dealings Begin Monday. Dealings End, Dec 27. ; Comptago Day, Dec 28. Settlement Day, Jan 1.

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.



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100% 100%	<b>13. LAR</b>		<b>14. LSC</b>		<b>15. MCL</b>		<b>16. NAM</b>		<b>17. NCB</b>		<b>18. OIL</b>		<b>19. PAB</b>		<b>20. PAB</b>		<b>21. PAB</b>		<b>22. PAB</b>		<b>23. PAB</b>		<b>24. PAB</b>																							
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*Shoparound with Beryl Downing Shoparound with Beryl Downing Shoparound with Beryl Downing Shoparound with Beryl Downing Shoparound with Beryl Downing*

H. Smith and Boots or, for an extra 30p postage, direct from Radcliffe Manor Herb and Butterflies Farm, Buckingham.

Also for flower people, the superbly produced Constance Spry book of Flower Arranging by Harold Piercy, principal of the Constance Spry Flower School since 1958. It is packed with colour photographs of arrangements for all seasons and includes advice on containers, on planning a garden of flower and foliage suitable for cutting and on dealing with problems like stems that bleed and others that smell. Looks expensive but isn't £2.25 from branches of Marks and Spencer.

You may also like to consider giving a regular supply of flowers, perhaps to someone who no longer has a garden, or to someone who is confined to the house because of ill health. Gift boxes of fresh seasonal flowers can be sent anywhere in Britain within 24 hours of picking and so remain fresh and fragrant.

You can arrange four deliveries a year for £24, six for £35 or a whole year's supply, once a month for £59. Order forms and details of individual deliveries of flowers or pot plants from World of Flowers, 44-46 Pier Avenue, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex, CO15 1QN. Telephone: Clacton (0255) 20505/6.

It is easier to buy Christmas than to praise it. Easy to be blessed, easy to say what a bore,

how commercial, not Boxing Day at your mother's again. Well, I have to admit to being a child at heart. I think it's worth every bauble.

I do not see why one cannot respect it as the festival it is and still have fun. If, for some, that means that music of cash registers rather than organs, that is their problem. I love the carols and the cards and the turkey and the tinsel. Masses of tinsel. This is a cheerful celebration, not a dirge on the death of good taste.

It is best when there are small children around, but I like being spoilt, too. In common with most of my female friends I do not feel pampered by the practical, so if you are looking for a be-ribboned microwave oven or a limited edition tea towel, you will not find it here. I also agree

wholeheartedly with Ogden Nash, who declared that he did not want "a coffee table made out of an old wagon wheel, or a firescreen made out of a left-over piece of trellis. Or, indeed, anything made out of or to look like, anything else".

So, having revealed my prejudices, let me also reveal my sources and present a round-up of Christmas goodies with a high-thank-you potential:

Almost anything from Grays Antique Market, 58 Davies Street, London, W1 would be welcome. A Victorian scrap book, for instance, from £20 to £100 from M. & R. Glendale, stall 122, or a miniature silver mirror to wear as a pendant, from £40 at Brian and Lynn Holmes, stall 304. Britannia, stall 101, have a huge collection of commemorative china and some original pieces of 1930's Clarice Cliff pottery, much copied and increasingly sought. A honey pot with her typical crocus motif is £16.

Their sweet-tooth, Grays Mews, where Rita Westenius, stall A16/17, has enchanting

twenties beaded gowns, including a see-through black taffeta embroidered with real metal sequins, £65, and Art Deco beaded handbags from £5.

Being a chocoholic I restrict my intake firmly to Christmas and then only the best. Among my favourites are Nadia, 111 Golders Green Road, London NW11, who always have original ideas and this year have a presentation stand that looks exactly like a bottle of champagne, but is made of chocolate and contains chocolate liqueurs, £10.95 plus £1.50 postage. Arisova, too, are delicious. Their hand-made Belgian chocolates are available at their shop in Preston Road, Brighton, and they also sell selections in Barkers, Kensington High Street, for £2.15 a lb. box.

More wickedly more-ish of all are Ackermans, rich and dark and full of praline and marzipan. They cost £5.25 for a 1lb box from their shop in Goldhurst Terrace, London, NW6, from £4.20 in special presentation boxes from the top floor at Harvey Nichols.

Inter Continental, Hyde Park Strand, Palace and Europa hotels. Ackerman also do wooden crates of liqueur chocolates at £3.75 for 7 oz and £5.75 for 13 oz at Harrods, Selfridges and Harrods.

Finally, if I eat all that chocolate I shall pay for my folly in spots and spare tyres, so I should like a Harvey Nichols beauty gift voucher—£15 would entitle me to an Oriane facial, make-up and manicure, £25 would give me a complete body treatment; steam bath, half hour massage, facial, manicure, pedicure and shampoo and set or blow dry and £50 sounds as if it would give me a complete rebirth, being a special course of four Oriane facials with the Pneumopather machine. The vouchers are on sale in the hair and beauty salon on the top floor at Harvey Nichols.



**Left: Nightie and mob cap, £7, with matching robe £7, all in Father Christmas red polyester from the American Children's Shop, 18 Eccleston Street, London, SW1.**

**Left: Sheer glamour. Camisole edged with 2 inch lace, sizes 34", 36" and 38", £5.50. Matching French knickers, 34/36" and 38/40", £3.50. In black, rose or cream polyester crêpe-de-chine from major branches of Marks and Spencer.**

**There is nothing more delightful than a lavish bottle of a smell you like, be it La Dix de Balencerga or Le Five Star of Martell, and nothing more wasteful than a scent that doesn't suit you.**

**Why this simple fact continues to elude otherwise intelligent man is beyond me and if I want a real frisson at this time of year I don't go to a horror movie, but to a perfume counter where I watch mesmerised, as uncomprehending male noses are pressed to a "salesgirl's" mould-perfumed wrists (at least I think that is what is happening), and the poor wretches are parted from considerable sums for something that will smell totally different on another skin.**

**Motto: if in doubt, do without.**

**A better idea would be to invest in a collection of aromatic oils which can be blended to suit each individual. They are actually bath oils and they are all natural, containing no synthetic chemicals and no skin-drying detergent.**

**There are 21 single oils, so the mixing permutations are numerous or, if certain oils complement each other particularly well, there are ready-made collections of four in a box.**

**These 10 collections have different purposes. Among them Siesta, containing a bottle each of bergamot, lavender, marjoram and rosewood, is intended to relax you; Sudrista (ylang ylang, juniper, peppermint and rosemary) shouldiven you; Flora (carnation, jasmine, mimosa and rose) says it will beautify you. There is even a collection which includes frankincense and myrrh.**

**There is a 20-page leaflet explaining the purpose of each oil so that you can choose a collection of your own and learn to be your own master-blender. My first attempt was with geranium, peppermint, lemon and nutmeg because I was feeling Sunday afternoonish and it promised stimulation. I rose from the bath like Venus from a fondant factory, pink and smooth and smelling edible. Perhaps a little less of the peppermint next time.**

**All these Gregory aromatic oils are available from Fenwicks, Liberty and Selfridges in London and from 50 shops throughout the country. Or you can get an order form from C. A. Gregory Aromatic Oils Ltd, 48 Dukes Avenue, London, N10 and they will send your selection. Single oils cost £1.75 plus 25p postage and boxes of four at £5.95, plus 40p.**

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**Cinemagoers are full of like the one of the malicious stage hands who put a trampolite instead of a mattress over the barricades off-stage for an unpopular Tosca to fall upon. She burst right back onto the stage, 16 pieces at a time, up or down, before the curtain closed in front of the astonished audience.**

**I also liked another Tosca tale of the San Francisco college boys who were hurriedly recruited, without a dress rehearsal, to be the third act execution squad and were sent on with little more than the instruction to "shout and shout with the principals". They knew so little about the story that not only did they show Tosca instead of Caravadoosi, but when she unbelievably refused to die by their gunshots and instead took up her position to jump as scheduled, they followed their instructions to the letter and as the curtain slowly descended the whole firing squad threw themselves after her...**

**It is available, at £1.82 from newsagents and bookstores, or direct from the trade counter, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1, and if you would like to send one to a friend, Time Books will do it for you. Just write for an order form to Times Calendar, Time Books Ltd, 18 Ogle Street, London W1P 7LG.**

**There are many more anecdotes about other operas, and it does not really matter whether your operatic friends have a sense of humour or not, they will enjoy pinpointing the exact spot in each story where the dianese happened and you will have paid them a compliment by assuming that they know.**

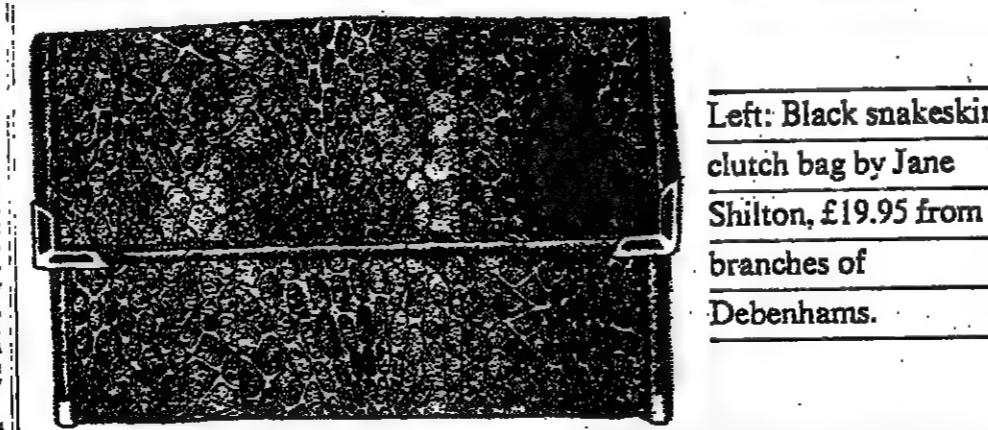
**I feel diffident about singing the praises of The Times Calendar of Britain for 1980 now that it am, so to speak, one of the fadists, but it really is a splendid collection of pictures of our countryside, from the January snows of Argent through a summer of sun-sleeping fuchsias in north Devon to the pine-spiked hills of the Lake District in December.**

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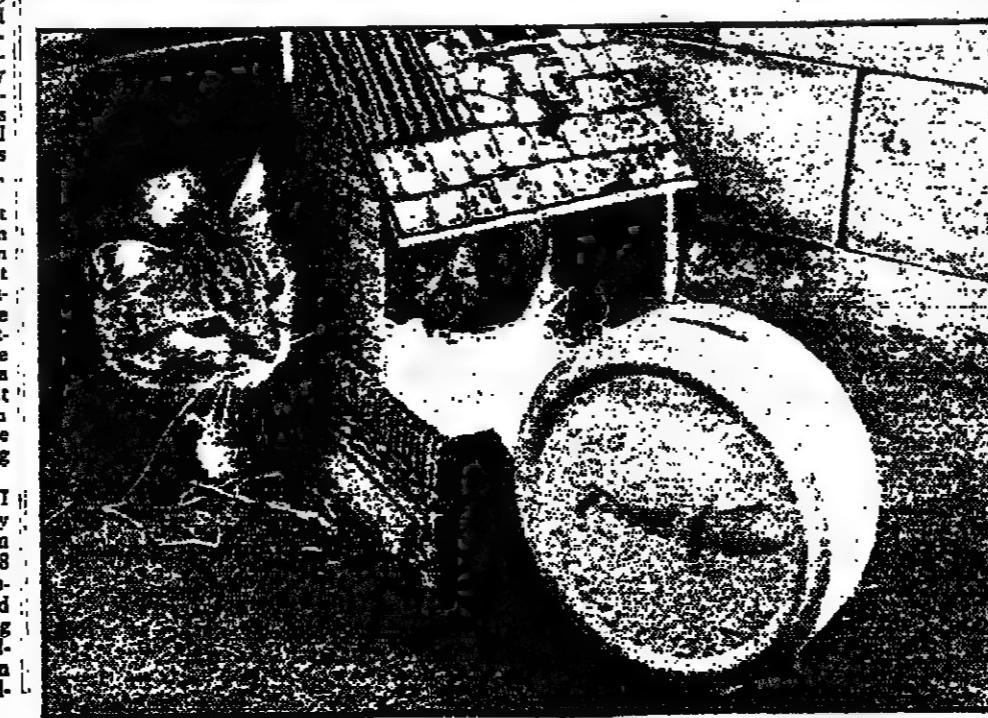
**Left: Black snakeskin clutch bag by Jane Shilton, £19.95 from branches of Debenhams.**



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**Left: Satisfyingly round piggy bank in unglazed stoneware with a cork at the back for the removal of the loot. In its own cardboard pig sty, costs about £5.50 from Heals, John Lewis, and Science Studio at Oxford.**



**Sports bag with pocket for tennis racquet and zip compartment for clothes, shoes. £23.40 from Eximous at 12a Maddox Street, W1. Also at Harrods, Asprey and Austin Reed, Regent Street, W1.**

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# THE TIMES

## BUSINESS NEWS

### Stock markets

FT Ind 415.6

FT Gilt 63.46

Sterling

\$2.1675

Index 83.2

Dollar

Index 83.5

Gold

\$225 an ounce

3-month money

Interest bank 159 to 151/16

Euro \$ 13 15/16 to 13 1/16

Friday's close

### IN BRIEF

**adbroke is ready to appoint more directors**

adbroke is to appoint extra directors, including non-executive directors, to its board.

In a letter to shareholders, Cyril Stein, the chairman, says profits for the year would be affected by the enforced closure of three of its casinos, as week applications to renew licences of three of Ladie's London clubs—the Ladie's Club, the Park Lane and the Hertford Club—were rejected. The Gaming Board is applying to close the up's remaining London clubs, the Park Tower, Ladie's has asked the Gaming Board for consent to apply for licences for the closed clubs in May next year.

Mr Stein said profits for the financial year would be heavily cut, but if the board increased the final dividend for 9 per cent, the 50 per cent added—the interim it would still be covered by non-casino profits.

### Onebuilding

### Slump predicted

A further slump in public building programmes next year is predicted. The annual report of the House-Builders' Federation, published today, says there is a distinct possibility that the number of homes started will decline to 50,000.

The number of homes started this year in the public sector now unlikely to exceed 60,000, the lowest total since the end of World War II. Last year, 70,000 homes were started.

According to the most recent official forecasts 300,000 new houses will be required by 1980.

The Federation says the private sector is not able to meet the shortfall.

### car imports take 60pc of British market

Imports took 50.1 per cent of the new car market last month, the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT) said today. In November last year their share was 32.6 per cent.

Overall, new car sales in November were 117,402—16.57 per cent up on November, 1978, also for the first 11 months were 1,649,345, up 11.20%.

Top selling cars in November were: Ford Cortina (14,106); Ford Escort (10,402); Austin Morris Mini (5,042); and Ford Fiesta (5,002).

### Leas ON new debts

Local authorities have asked the Treasury for flexibility this year in its programme of lengthening progressively the average maturity of new debt. This year's requirement under the 1977 Code of Practice is that new debt should have an average maturity of at least six years. Some authorities feel that in view of the present high level of interest rates this would not be in the ratepayers' best interests.

Financial Editor, page 17

### Meccano meeting

The 940 employees at the Meccano toy factory on the Edge Hill industrial estate at Liverpool have been called to a meeting this morning to hear from union officials and shop stewards the outcome of talks in London on Friday with management of Meccano and Airfix Industries, the American-owned parent company.

Plan for Merseyside, page 18

### Soviet cotton record

The Soviet Union has announced a record cotton harvest of 9.1 million tonnes in spite of frosts and heavy rains.

### Hypermarket contract

Costain Construction has won a £6.2m contract to build a 115,000 sq ft hypermarket and ancillary facilities at Havant, Hampshire, for the Porsches Islands Mutual Cooperative.

### THE POUND

Bank Bank

## MANAGEMENT

# Can accountants stand the culture shock?

Can industry use chartered accountants? Clearly the answer to so direct a question must be yes. Over half the membership of the three Institutes of Chartered Accountants works in industry or commerce, providing approximately half of all qualified accountants in industry: so there is obviously a demand for the skills of chartered accountants.

However, a straight answer to a straight question may give a misleading impression. Industry needs qualified accountants for a whole range of tasks but it is at present unable to meet its needs from internal training programmes. The gap is being filled by recruitment from the accounting profession.

There are many shades of opinion on the relative merits of training in industry or in public practice. My own view is that none of the existing methods of training accountants are effective in producing the type of finance man that industry really requires, particularly at a time when high inflation is creating problems of interpretation and because of the rapid increase in working capital requirements and the related cost of capital pressures on both profit and cash flow.

Existing training programmes are in real danger of producing highly expensive financial or management accounting technicians. There is too little emphasis on the use and interpretation of financial data, and the practical contribution that the finance man must and should make as a member of the management team.

Too many accountants, particularly those trained in public practice, see accounting as an

end in itself, and not as a means to an end. The need to produce meaningful and constructive information as an aid to decision-making requires much greater emphasis than ever before.

The accountant who presents financial information to management without any guidance in itself, and not as a means to an end. The need to produce meaningful and constructive information as an aid to decision-making requires much greater emphasis than ever before.

The accountant who presents financial information to management without any guidance

a general management really needs.

In addition, any chartered accountant making the transition to industry or commerce is inevitably going to suffer a degree of culture shock. This arises for two reasons: first, he has been used to working with relatively bright collea-

tions, such as tax, treasury and financial accounting.

Nevertheless, even the specialist finance functions in industry require a chartered accountant to develop particular qualities which may have been less essential in public practice. For example, he must be able to make decisions, and

Michael Julien (right), a chartered accountant and finance director of BICC, a large British industrial company, argues that none of the existing methods of training accountants for an industrial role are effective.

Next week we shall publish opposing views and draw conclusions from this series and from the reactions of readers.



dance on its interpretation is in real danger of misleading his colleagues and thus contributing to poor business decisions, and eventually to poor performance. Appraisal of capital investment proposals and long-term contracts and related decisions on pricing, are two important areas where professional advice is essential.

Unfortunately the training and experience given to accountants during their formative years (up to two to three years after qualifying), tends to over-emphasise the technical aspects of their work, and allows too little time for them to gain an effective understanding of the key factors that go to make a successful business. He is thus unable to offer the type of advice that

gives trained in his own discipline; and secondly, he has had the strength of the firm's name (and the law) behind him. Suddenly he finds himself on his own, naked and unarmed.

Inevitably, the more years a chartered accountant spends in public practice before making the transition, the greater the culture shock, and the longer it takes him to develop the understanding necessary for him to make an effective contribution as an individual member of the management team.

Obviously there are many other essential tasks to which a chartered accountant, with several years' experience in public practice, can readily make an effective contribution from the outset. These include many of the specialist func-

tions required to support the culture of the individual concerned; but it also depends on the type of experience he has gained in public practice. Ideally, this should comprise a reasonable cross-section of

the necessary management ability and courage to get those decisions implemented—unlike his counterpart in public practice, whose role is invariably advisory.

On the positive side, the

training of chartered accountants in public practice before making the transition, the greater the culture shock, and the longer it takes him to develop the understanding necessary for him to make an effective contribution as an individual member of the management team.

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## Employers experiment in sharing services

It is notoriously difficult to get small companies to work together, but the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) managed to float an employers' cooperative last week which may set a trend.

The cooperative aims to help small and medium-sized firms not only by combining training resources but also by establishing central services such as a secretarial pool of temporaries and a word processing unit.

The scheme is unusual in that it will operate on a multi-industry basis. Most associations in which firms join together to provide themselves with training services at a reduced cost, operate only within a single industry. This one is probably unique in seeking to provide equipment and a pool of skilled labour as well.

The concept originated from various recent surveys which showed that, although unemployment is high, many small and medium-sized firms in south London are suffering from a persistent shortage of skilled workers.

The greatest difficulty appears to be in recruiting office staff, and 16 of the 31

firms which have already expressed interest in the scheme specifically said that they wanted to improve their clerical and secretarial training arrangements.

The surveys showed that small companies in general are dissatisfied with the statutory training services offered by industrial training boards and the Manpower Services Commission. In particular they feel that the MSC's Training Opportunities Scheme (Tops) is inadequate.

The ITBs are held in higher regard but their mandate to encourage firms to offer training facilities of high standard is so wide that many small firms have been ignored.

By adopting a "self-help" approach, the London chamber believes that it can plug the gap between the training services offered on a statutory basis and the "in house" training services run by big companies.

The scheme is designed for companies employing between 50 and 250 people. Employers with less than 25 people would, the chamber believes, probably be unable to afford even a co-operative service, while firms employing more than 250 are generally able to set up their

own personnel and training divisions.

The cooperative will be run by the chamber with the assistance of the training and management consultancy subsidiary of Industrial and Commercial Finance Corporation. They will provide a diverse range of training and personal expertise on a part-time basis. Member firms will pay a retainer to the association, which will give them access to a training specialist.

The other services would be funded from a negotiated fee.

Initially the cooperative will function as a division of the LCCI but eventually it is to be incorporated as a limited company. It will be run by its members through a membership committee composed of elected representatives of the companies, and two LCCI staff members.

Four main facilities are being offered by the association. It will recruit trainees on behalf of members, place them on appropriate courses in local educational institutions, and advise members how to qualify for grants.

In addition it plans to establish a central secretarial pool which will service the tempor-

## A new generation at Morgan Grenfell

It is not only industrial and commercial companies that undergo the occasional disturbance at the top. Last week it happened at one of the bluest of blue-blooded merchant banks in the City—Morgan Grenfell.

What in fact has happened is that a tough young man, Mr Christopher Reeves (youngest of the chief executive team) and his contemporaries have taken over the running of the bank that is the mainstay of the operation, while their seniors retire to positions of influence, but little day-to-day power, as part of the bank.

The net result was not merely that Mr Reeves learnt his way round the checks and balances at Morgan Grenfell—who does what for whom, and why; but also that he recruited a team to complement him. As training for management it could not be bettered. But credit to Mr Reeves's seniors: not many in commerce or industry would have given their ambitious young men the chance.

What is really fascinating about this business is the route that Mr Reeves took to reach his present eminence. It provides an object lesson to any

Adrienne Gleeson

## Why are salesmen being sold short?

According to the Institute of Sales Management (ISM) in Leamington Spa, the cost of salesmen's cars—mostly Ford, Vauxhall and EL—increased by 31 per cent last year to an average of £3,250. With last year's inflation of salesmen's overheads running at 15.9 per cent increases in salaries have almost kept pace at 14.5 per cent, giving an average income of £6,023 pa.

The ISM says that the total cost of keeping a salesman on the road is £13,955 or £321 per week and that the cost of the company vehicle is the chief expense, with vehicle service and repair costs going up by 33 per cent last year.

Commenting on the low level of salesmen's salaries, Keith Brauer, president of the ISM, says: "Beyond doubt an increasing number of company cars have been issued to employees as a method of circumventing or offsetting what otherwise would have been salary increases."

Brauer says this is regrettable because "there are many tens of thousands of salesmen who would be unable to discharge their important function without the use of a company car and to whom in no way is a car seen as a 'benefit in kind'."

"Holiday periods apart, sales personnel clocking upwards of 15,000 to 20,000 miles a year are only too pleased to leave the car in the garage at weekends."

Hence the indignant description of him, by those who have come to love him, as nothing but "the personnel manager". He was however recruiting specialists to fill the vacancies he had himself identified, in a study of the structure and organization of the bank.

The net result was not merely that Mr Reeves learnt his way round the checks and balances at Morgan Grenfell—who does what for whom, and why; but also that he recruited a team to complement him. As training for management it could not be bettered. But credit to Mr Reeves's seniors: not many in commerce or industry would have given their ambitious young men the chance.

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## Prato—a model textile enterprise

From the President of the Italian Chamber of Commerce for Great Britain  
Sir, I have read with interest Ronald Kershaw's article "Wool textiles still beat by problems". It is not up to me to comment on the complaint that the British Government is not subsidising sufficiently the textile industry.

I must, however, take issue on the continuous accusations that the Wool Textile Manufacturers Federation keep throwing at Prato—never tired of unending rebuffs received with momentary regularity.

Recently the federation sent to Brussels a long document saying that as its members were being beaten in price, the main explanation had to be that a hidden subsidy was being given. Today it is said that the Italian textile industry is run by rogue workers who officially do not exist.

What a marvelous Government we have in Italy which seems to be capable of subsidising with excellent results

the wool industry. I am Sir, Yours faithfully,  
MASSIMO COEN,  
President,  
Italian Chamber of Commerce for Great Britain,  
26 Savile Row,  
London, W1X 2DQ.  
December 5.

## Dof's energy conservation scheme

From Mr John Haines  
Sir, In his letter (Nov. 23) Mr Rait says that his department is to convert waste into

presumably they had the investment and decided was worldwide, with or out a grant.

Nevertheless, I have that a little sympathy with Rait's criticism of the Department of Industry's Energy Conservation Scheme. months ago a study on which we had embarked with the intention of working out this very

Secondly, it is important to realize that alcohol is getting cheaper even though in relative terms successive increases (or lack of them) fail to keep pace with rampant inflation. The effect of these insufficient increases in taxation is to increase the alcohol problem because, truthfully, it has been shown that significant rises in cost would reduce consumption

Finally, if I may recite one final effort, not of the object of eliminating consumption as Mrs White implies, merely to reduce the general level of consumption which, as has also been demonstrated, will prevent the escalation of alcohol abuse. It is therefore a preventive measure and one designed to treat the 700,000 or so alcoholics in this country.

Finally, if I may recite one

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Thirdly, the latter point should not be belaboured. The whole point of making alcohol more expensive is to reduce the general level of consumption which, as has also been demonstrated, will prevent the escalation of alcohol abuse. It is therefore a preventive measure and one designed to treat the 700,000 or so alcoholics in this country.

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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

## A little local difficulty

So long as central government continues to borrow on the extravagant scale of recent years, it will also continue to incur a massive debt servicing burden—whatever the arguments about inflation and the real cost of debt.

Rightly, the Government is concentrating most of its attention on dealing with the underlying problem, reducing (or at least containing) the size of its borrowing requirement. Arguably, however, it has hardly been as imaginative or adventurous as it might have been in a period of high interest rates in trying to minimize the cost of future debt servicing.

The burden of debt servicing is, of course, one that applies to all parts of the public sector, not least to local authorities. Indeed, for them the problem is currently compounded by the fact that the Treasury requires them to borrow long under the Code of Practice introduced in the summer of 1977.

The Code was a perfectly prudent response to the sharp increase in short-term debt incurred by the authorities in the mid-seventies. It "suggested" (as a voluntary code) that authorities should progressively push out the average maturity of new debt from four years in 1977-78 to seven years by 1980-81.

The Code was, however, launched at a time when interest rates had fallen sharply, with yields on corporation stocks down to around 11 per cent that summer and hoped high, presumably, that they would fall further over time.

In the present year the authorities are faced with the task of achieving an average maturity on new debt of not less than six years against a background of interest rates of 15 per cent plus for fixed rate money.

Hardly surprisingly, some of them feel that long term borrowing at these kind of rates is unlikely to be the best of deals for the ratepayer. So they have asked the Treasury if a certain degree of flexibility might not be in order for the present financial year.

In the sense that the maturity lengthening already achieved has eased the annual refinancing problem quite considerably, there would seem to be a case for allowing such flexibility, particularly if the authorities can offer no guarantees that interest rates will fall sharply before the spring.

On the other hand, it is not entirely clear just how badly the authorities need additional flexibility. A fair amount of medium-term funding was done through the Public Works Loans Board in the April-June quarter.

More recently, against a background of rising interest rates, stock issues have certainly dried up, and a number of authorities have also dropped out of the local authority bond queue. There is no particular evidence that local authorities have been making exceptionally heavy calls on short-term money instead, though whether that reflects the holes in the banking "corset" or the authorities' own belt-tightening might be a moot point.

While investment trusts have regained a little of their tone over the past two weeks, the debate over the function continues. Latest contributor to it is stockbroker Lang & Cruickshank, which considers in its year-book the immediate and longer-term prospects for a sector which it describes with cruel but accurate precision as "all dressed up with nowhere to go".

Lang dismisses the option to specialize on the argument, first, that if institutional holders were buying and selling for the specialization, the likelihood is that discounts would widen out rather than narrow; and second, that existing shareholders of broadly-based trusts ought at least to be given the option to decline the change, and preferably the opportunity to get out at something nearer asset value than the market will provide.

But it is no keener on the "global" money management argument, either—as they point out the trusts, as closed-ended funds, would have extreme difficulty in producing a performance any better than their institutional investors could achieve for themselves.

St Piran

### No longer a grey area

The Stock Exchange could decide to restore the St Piran share quotation today. That would be a mistake. The Takeover Panel's inquiries are continuing along with

other investigations in Australia, Hongkong and Singapore. Moreover, with the annual meeting only four days away, shareholders have yet to receive satisfactory answers to vital questions: who controls their company and were the auditors' qualifications fair?

The question of control arose 18 months ago when St Piran built up a stake in A Monk, the civil engineer. Then as now the issue was the extent of the influence exercised by Mr J. J. Raper. Since that date inquiries have been conducted by the Takeover Panel, the Department of Trade, and independent shareholders, but without conclusion.

Nevertheless, it is widely believed by shareholders that Mr Raper controls some 40 per cent of St Piran. That is rather more than the directors imply in their latest circular and certainly more than his 1,000 shares registered holding. Shareholders deserve to know the exact position. Yet the Stock Exchange's Quotations Committee proposes a revaluation without waiting for the Takeover Panel's report, or at least, without making its deliberations known to shareholders.

The Department of Trade likewise has taken no official action to force a company—which by one of its director's public admission has been without a finance director for a year—to satisfy its owners' reasonable doubts.

It seems the shareholders are confounded. If the surmise about Mr Raper's influence is correct, and if he enjoys the support of the board, no amount of protest by other shareholders will produce enough votes to alter the balance of forces. Only a rigorous investigation by public body can do that, for this is no longer simply a "grey area", as the Stock Exchange suggests.

### Equities

### Sideways for the moment

Where does the equity market go from here? The answer, almost certainly, is sideways. Even the prospect of a pre-Christmas fillip looks improbable.

The Government appears to have little room for manoeuvre on interest rates despite the expectation that monetary expansion will soon slow and the evident easing of the funding programme following the 17 per cent minimum lending rate.

Tomorrow's banking figures, may not help either. Advances are still growing too fast for comfort and what evidence there is suggests that credit demand is remaining at a high level into the December banking month.

So it looks as if the equity market will have to live with an unusually high reverse yield gap of around 8 points at a time when there are question marks over the level of dividend payments that in many cases are only just covered on a current cost accounting basis.

Poor company news is now coming through thick and fast. True, the engineering strike is confusing the picture, but results from GEC, Pilkington, Beecham and Racal not to mention many second-liners suggest too that the recession is beginning to take hold.

The November wholesale price figures showed that manufacturing companies are facing hefty raw material price rises even if the miners' settlement is a pointer that wage inflation may not turn out to be as much of a problem as it seemed even a few weeks ago. Moreover, there are still the Opec price increases to come and sterling's strength threatens to cut deeper into exporters' margins.

Most forecasts see the 1980 recession cutting growth by around 1.2 per cent. Meanwhile the outlook for corporate liquidity is deteriorating although analysts like Hoare Govett and Phillips & Drew make the important point that in real terms the deficit expected next year will be nowhere near as bad as 1974-75.

Corporation profits look as though they will decline by around 3 per cent next year according to Hoare which will limit dividend growth to around 6.7 per cent.

Last week's figures from the Department of Industry showed that corporate liquidity had started to deteriorate and if Phillips & Drew is right companies will be looking for £4,500-£5,500m from external sources against only £1,000-£1,500m on average over the past three years. That will be reflected in heavy pressure on some balance sheets.

### Business Diary profile

Today's meeting of central bankers in Basle marks the end of one of the longest double acts in recent international monetary history.

Otmar Emminger, president of West Germany's federal bank, makes his last appearance at the monthly gathering of central bankers at the Bank for International Settlements in the company of his successor and present deputy Karl-Otto Poehl. Although the two men have been in their present jobs for only two and a half years their partnership goes back to the end of 1972. It was then that Poehl was appointed state secretary at the Bonn Ministry of Finance and given responsibility with Emminger, then vice-president of the federal bank, for guiding West Germany through the international monetary storms of the 1970's.

There is a marked contrast in character and career between the present and future defender of the Deutsche mark.

Emminger retires after a career in the West German central banking system that spans more than a quarter of a century. He joined the Bank Deutscher Länder, the forerunner of the present federal bank, in November 1950 and became a director in 1953.

Seventeen years later he was appointed vice-president of the federal bank and was finally made president in 1977 at the age of 66.

Throughout he has been ubiquitous on the international monetary scene. He has travelled hundreds of thousands of miles from one monetary conference to another. Generally exuding optimism, he has

brought great technical skill to bear on problems of the day.

Whether it was the dollar, sterling or the lire that needed propping up or rescuing, the slender, soberly dressed Emminger was invariably at hand.

He is thought to have missed only one important international monetary conference during his period of office. That was in March 1968, when the two-tier gold price was established.

But it is not just as the "foreign minister" of the federal bank that he will be remembered. He has been a determined and persistent warrior against Goldeneuerung, a favourite federal bank word for inflation.

Although Germany's present inflation rate of around 5.7 per cent compares favourably with a British rate moving towards 20 per cent, it is far too high for Otmar Emminger. Accordingly he did not hesitate at recent meeting of the bank's central council to push through a further tightening of monetary policies against the wishes of the finance ministry in Bonn.

Many expect that Karl-Otto Poehl will be a rather more easy-going president of the federal bank than Emminger who has the reputation of never detaching himself from his job.

Poehl, who at 50 is 18 years younger than Emminger, finds it difficult to conform to the austere image normally associated with his chosen profession. He has a lively sense of humour and a mischievous twinkle. He can be very irreverent.

Poehl's responsibilities were not confined to international affairs in the finance ministry. It was Poehl who was responsible for new banking legislation after the collapse of the Merchant Bank in 1974, proving himself a canny debt manager as

submitting cheerfully to the tight security precautions that go with the new job. But there is clearly in question as to his ability and he has made it to the top after a remarkably varied career.

But it is not just as the "foreign minister" of the federal bank that he will be remembered. He has been a determined and persistent warrior against Goldeneuerung, a favourite federal bank word for inflation.

His career got under way in 1960 when he went as a department head to an economic research institute in Munich. Between 1961 and 1967 he was an economics journalist in Bonn, working for a private newsletter, as well as magazines and the radio.

In 1968 he left journalism to join the management of the private banking association. In 1970 he was brought into the Bonn economic ministry by Karl Schiller, then the minister.

The following year he moved on to become economic adviser to Willy Brandt in the Chancellor before taking over as state secretary at the finance ministry in December 1973, under Helmut Schmidt, the then minister.

Poehl, who at 50 is 18 years younger than Emminger, finds it difficult to conform to the austere image normally associated with his chosen profession. He has a lively sense of humour and a mischievous twinkle. He can be very irreverent.

Poehl's responsibilities were

not confined to international affairs in the finance ministry. It was Poehl who was responsible for new banking legislation after the collapse of the Merchant Bank in 1974, proving himself a canny debt manager as

Germany found itself having to bridge growing budget deficits in fighting back during the recession of the mid 1970's.

With his appointment to the vice-presidency of the federal bank it became clear that Poehl could reach the top.

His ability to get on with Helmut Schmidt and his knowledge of Bonn should stand him in good stead after he takes over the presidency.

Poehl committed no serious errors after becoming vice-president. He has even worked to look more down and bankerly and has developed a taste for dark grey Savile Row suits to help him look the part.

This last point is important to the West Germans. The president of the federal bank is a public figure—far more so than any other central bank president in the EEC. Who, after all, outside the City and Whitehall, would recognize a picture of Gordon Richardson, Governor of the Bank of England?

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submitting cheerfully to the tight security precautions that go with the new job. But there is clearly in question as to his ability and he has made it to the top after a remarkably varied career.

But it is not just as the "foreign minister" of the federal bank that he will be remembered. He has been a determined and persistent warrior against Goldeneuerung, a favourite federal bank word for inflation.

His career got under way in 1960 when he went as a department head to an economic research institute in Munich. Between 1961 and 1967 he was an economics journalist in Bonn, working for a private newsletter, as well as magazines and the radio.

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## Stock Exchange Prices

# Capitalization and week's change

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Begin, Today. Dealings End, Dec 27. § Contango Day, Dec 28. Settlement Day, Jan 7

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)

# LET THE GIN BE HIGH & DRY!

## Really Dry Gin

# John Foord plant and machinery valuers

plant and machinery valuers

Stockholding	Price	Chg.	Gross Div.	Int. Gross	Div.	Net Div.	Stock	Price	Chg.	Gross Div.	Int. Gross	Div.	Net Div.	Stock	Price	Chg.	Gross Div.	Int. Gross	Div.	Net Div.	Stock		
<b>BRITISH FUNDS</b>																							
100,000 Tresor '90-1988	964	..	9,176	17,473	..	..		1,000 Tresor '90-1990	974	..	9,176	18,180	..	..		12,000 Crown House	.37	-2	64	113	63	..	12,000 Loring J.
1,000 Tresor '90-1990	974	..	9,176	18,180	..	..		1,000 Cun's En Cr	501	..	225	413	54	..		12,300 Do A	.47	-2	58	76	23	..	12,300 Royal Cement
200,000 Tresor '90-1990	984	..	9,180	12,943	..	..		10,000 Date Electric	126	..	59	47	10,15	..		12,300 Do A	.47	-2	58	82	23	..	12,300 S.G.R. Corp
400,000 Tresor '90-1990	984	..	9,180	12,943	..	..		10,000 David & New	116	..	12	102	10,37	..		12,300 David & New	120	..	43	53	54	..	12,300 SKF '91
600,000 Tresor '90-1990	984	..	9,180	12,943	..	..		10,000 Delco	311	..	70,5	40	60	..		12,300 Delco	120	..	61	77	42	..	12,300 S.A.C. Corp
800,000 Tresor '90-1990	984	..	9,180	12,943	..	..		10,000 Dentsply Int'l	116	..	12	102	10,37	..		12,300 Dentsply Int'l	120	..	61	77	42	..	12,300 S.A.C. Corp
1,000,000 Tresor '90-1990	984	..	9,180	12,943	..	..		10,000 Davis G.	113	..	7	6,9	7,41	..		12,300 Davis G.	120	..	43	53	54	..	12,300 S.A.C. Corp
1,200,000 Tresor '90-1990	984	..	9,180	12,943	..	..		10,000 De Beers	109	..	12	9	8	..		12,300 De Beers	120	..	43	53	54	..	12,300 S.A.C. Corp
1,400,000 Tresor '90-1990	984	..	9,180	12,943	..	..		10,000 De Beers	109	..	12	9	8	..		12,300 De Beers	120	..	43	53	54	..	12,300 S.A.C. Corp
1,600,000 Tresor '90-1990	984	..	9,180	12,943	..	..		10,000 De Beers	109	..	12	9	8	..		12,300 De Beers	120	..	43	53	54	..	12,300 S.A.C. Corp
1,800,000 Tresor '90-1990	984	..	9,180	12,943	..	..		10,000 De Beers	109	..	12	9	8	..		12,300 De Beers	120	..	43	53	54	..	12,300 S.A.C. Corp
2,000,000 Tresor '90-1990	984	..	9,180	12,943	..	..		10,000 De Beers	109	..	12	9	8	..		12,300 De Beers	120	..	43	53	54	..	12,300 S.A.C. Corp
2,200,000 Tresor '90-1990	984	..	9,180	12,943	..	..		10,000 De Beers	109	..	12	9	8	..		12,300 De Beers	120	..	43	53	54	..	12,300 S.A.C. Corp
2,400,000 Tresor '90-1990	984	..	9,180	12,943	..	..		10,000 De Beers	109	..	12	9	8	..		12,300 De Beers	120	..	43	53	54	..	12,300 S.A.C. Corp
2,600,000 Tresor '90-1990	984	..	9,180	12,943	..	..		10,000 De Beers	109	..	12	9	8	..		12,300 De Beers	120	..	43	53	54	..	12,300 S.A.C. Corp
2,800,000 Tresor '90-1990	984	..	9,180	12,943	..	..		10,000 De Beers	109	..	12	9	8	..		12,300 De Beers	120	..	43	53	54	..	12,300 S.A.C. Corp
3,000,000 Tresor '90-1990	984	..	9,180	12,943	..	..		10,000 De Beers	109	..	12	9	8	..		12,300 De Beers	120	..	43	53	54	..	12,300 S.A.C. Corp
3,200,000 Tresor '90-1990	984	..	9,180	12,943	..	..		10,000 De Beers	109	..	12	9	8	..		12,300 De Beers	120	..	43	53	54	..	12,300 S.A.C. Corp
3,400,000 Tresor '90-1990	984	..	9,180	12,943	..	..		10,000 De Beers	109	..	12	9	8	..		12,300 De Beers	120	..	43	53	54	..	12,300 S.A.C. Corp
3,600,000 Tresor '90-1990	984	..	9,180	12,943	..	..		10,000 De Beers	109	..	12	9	8	..		12,300 De Beers	120	..	43	53	54	..	12,300 S.A.C. Corp
3,800,000 Tresor '90-1990	984	..	9,180	12,943	..	..		10,000 De Beers	109	..	12	9	8	..		12,300 De Beers	120	..	43	53	54	..	12,300 S.A.C. Corp
4,000,000 Tresor '90-1990	984	..	9,180	12,943	..	..		10,000 De Beers	109	..	12	9	8	..		12,300 De Beers	120	..	43	53	54	..	12,300 S.A.C. Corp
4,200,000 Tresor '90-1990	984	..	9,180	12,943	..	..		10,000 De Beers	109	..	12	9	8	..		12,300 De Beers	120	..	43	53	54	..	12,300 S.A.C. Corp
4,400,000 Tresor '90-1990	984	..	9,180	12,943	..	..		10,000 De Beers	109	..	12	9	8	..		12,300 De Beers	120	..	43	53	54	..	12,300 S.A.C. Corp
4,600,000 Tresor '90-1990	984	..	9,180	12,943	..	..		10,000 De Beers	109	..	12	9	8	..		12,300 De Beers	120	..	43	53	54	..	12,300 S.A.C. Corp
4,800,000 Tresor '90-1990	984	..	9,180	12,943	..	..		10,000 De Beers	109	..	12	9	8	..		12,300 De Beers	120	..	43	53	54	..	12,300 S.A.C. Corp
5,000,000 Tresor '90-1990	984	..	9,180	12,943	..	..		10,000 De Beers	109	..	12	9	8	..		12,300 De Beers	120	..	43	53	54	..	12,300 S.A.C. Corp
5,200,000 Tresor '90-1990	984	..	9,180	12,943	..	..		10,000 De Beers	109	..	12	9	8	..		12,300 De Beers	120	..	43	53	54	..	12,300 S.A.C. Corp
5,400,000 Tresor '90-1990	984	..	9,180	12,943	..	..		10,000 De Beers	109	..	12	9	8	..		12,300 De Beers	120	..	43	53	54	..	12,300 S.A.C. Corp
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5,800,000 Tresor '90-1990	984	..	9,180	12,943	..	..		10,000 De Beers	109	..	12	9	8	..		12,300 De Beers	120	..	43	53	54	..	12,300 S.A.C. Corp
6,000,000 Tresor '90-1990	984	..	9,180	12,943	..	..		10,000 De Beers	109	..	12	9	8	..		12,300 De Beers	120	..	43	53	54	..	12,300 S.A.C. Corp
6,200,000 Tresor '90-1990	984	..	9,180	12,943	..	..		10,000 De Beers	109	..	12	9	8	..		12,300 De Beers	120	..	43	53	54	..	12,300 S.A.C. Corp
6,400,000 Tresor '90-1990	984	..	9,180	12,943	..	..		10,000 De Beers	109	..	12	9	8	..		12,300 De Beers	120	..	43	53	54	..	12,300 S.A.C. Corp
6,600,000 Tresor '90-1990	984																						

Prices on this page are now supplied by Exchange Telegraph's Epic system and are the last prices available from London stock market dealers yesterday evening. Various indices produced by The Times, including the index of 150 industrial stocks, are being reviewed and recalculated.